

FEBRUARY

Youth & 6



**Your
Future
Is
NOW!**

**Your Incredible
Human Potential**
By Herbert W. Armstrong

Youth 86

February

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COVER: This photographic effect represents the question of humanity's place in the universe. Read about your potential, starting page 1. Photo montage by G.A. Belluche Jr. and Saritka Solomon.

Letters

World peace

I am 15 years old and all I would like to tell you is that I love your magazine so much that if there is a subscription fee, I will gladly pay for it. These magazines have taught me so much. I'm trying to encourage my friends to write to ask you about the magazines.

You seem to cover every problem in your magazine.

Please could you send me the article on "What Is the Best Age for Marriage?" and "Did Jesus Have Long Hair?" and also the *Ten Commandments*, which I need very badly at school?

I also would like to get the booklet on *World Peace*, because I don't see how we will ever have world peace in the world today, the state it is in now. Or maybe you could send *Are We Living in the Last Days?* I really think we are living in [the last days] because if America accidentally triggers a nuclear bomb to Russia, Russia will retaliate with all of her bombs and that would mean the end of the world.

Terry Morgan
Clarendon, Jamaica

Dipping snuff

I really did like both of the articles about tobacco in the October-November issue of *Youth 85*.

I'm 15 and used to dip snuff until I read an article in a *Reader's Digest* magazine. When I saw a picture of the guy that had dipped, it scared me.

And when I read these two articles, I really decided to stop! And for all you teens out there who are thinking of taking up the habit, don't. All it does is waste your money and give you cancer.

Name Withheld
New Mexico

First term paper

I just wanted to thank you for your article "You Don't Have to Stay up All Night!" (October-November *Youth 85*).

I'm in 9th grade and facing my first "big time" term paper. I've never done one before and it kind of looked rather impossible, especially the research! Your article helped a lot and now I don't feel so hopeless. I've enjoyed the *Youth 85* a lot.

Sharon Grinnell
Vinemont, Alabama

Hunting

I am not writing with a question, but
(Continued on page 29)

Your Human Potential Is Incredibly GREATER Than You Have Realized

By Herbert W. Armstrong

Don't sell yourself short! The possibilities that lie ahead for you are transcendently greater than you have ever come to know!

When I was an adolescent of 16, as I have said and written many times, **AMBITION** was aroused in me. It was on my first summer vacation job away from home. I had never thought very seriously before of making something of myself in the world.

I had devoted my time, as most boys do, to "having fun." I had played baseball, football and spun tops. At age 12 I became interested in wrestling. Those were the days when wrestling was wrestling — not a deceptive comedy show like professional wrestling later became. Those were the days when

Frank Gotch was world champion — a *real* champion — the days of Farmer Burns, Zsbysco and other superstrong men. The older brother of a neighbor boy I played with had set up a real wrestling mat, and we boys were learning all about half nelsons, arm locks and toe-holds.

Then at 16 I had a summer vacation job in another town. My employer complimented me on my work, and this caused me to try hard. He began telling me I had abilities to make a real success of my life — I could really accomplish big things, if I applied myself.

Ambition is the **DESIRE** to accomplish, **PLUS** the will to apply oneself energetically

What are the greatest achievements you could make? Do they go beyond your town, country, planet? Don't sell yourself short! Your potential is beyond your wildest dreams!



Photo montage by G.A. Belluche Jr. and Saritka Solomon

with determination. I didn't then know *what* I would do — in what field I would become such a success — but I began to believe in myself, and began to apply myself to studies at the public library, entirely aside from the high school studies.

At age 18 I put myself through a course of self-analysis, by means of a book I found in the public library, *Choosing a Vocation*. It helped me avoid "fitting the square peg in the round hole." It set forth the requirements for success in the professions, businesses, occupations. This self-survey, coupled with a survey of occupations, led me into the advertising profession.

I applied myself vigorously. As I grew into the 20s, I became quite successful. With an office in Chicago's Loop from age 23 to 30, I was finally earning an income that, on today's dollar value, would amount to more than \$150,000 per year.

Then, at age 34, I was challenged most seriously, and was led into an intensive, almost night-and-day, in-depth study of evolution and the Bible. My marriage depended upon it, and I did not believe in divorce.

This in-depth research OPENED MY EYES to an entirely NEW HORIZON!

Up until then I had been imbued 1) with *self*-confidence and 2) with an horizon limited to mental or physical secular fields.

In other words, I interpreted "human potential" in terms of the physical and the material, as I suppose most everybody does today.

Commonly, people will think of human potential as the possibility of making such a success in life as a Thomas A. Edison, an Einstein, a Paderewski, an Arthur Rubinstein — or, historically, a Napoleon or an Alexander the Great.

But now a WHOLE NEW HORIZON loomed transcendently before my mind's eye — something immeasurably greater and more wonderful than any physical, material or mechanical accomplishment.

And now, too, an entirely NEW kind of CONFIDENCE began to grip me. I began to exchange SELF-confidence for the confidence that is FAITH in the living Jesus Christ. Self-confidence began to disappear. FAITH, which is RELIANCE on God, began to grow.

And a potentiality that is possible for humans now loomed up stupendously greater than anything I had conceived of before.

I had begun to see, in the Bible, something TREMENDOUS that seems hidden from human eyes in this world. I began to realize that the Gospel message that GOD sent by Jesus Christ

**Mortal man has
the transcendent
potential . . . to
literally make over
and renew the
faces of planets
throughout
the vastness of
endless space!**

involves a vast comprehension of God's great PURPOSE! I began to discover the missing dimension in knowledge — knowledge undiscovered by science, untaught in higher education, glossed over entirely by religion.

Actually, I began to realize that the biblical revelation, and the message Jesus proclaimed, is in fact such STUPENDOUS knowledge that what is being disseminated as higher education is dwarfed into insignificance!

But that monumental message, which was Christ's Gospel — His glorious GOOD news — was soon suppressed, in the very first century!

It is concerned with the Creator's all-encompassing, overwhelming, overall purpose, in-

volving not only man, but the entire vast and limitless UNIVERSE, to be *made over* by man, when man comes into his projected GLORY! This is no imaginary, illusory play on words — it is REAL!

It means that the great majestic GOD is, literally, reproducing Himself in MAN; that mortal MAN has the transcendent potential of being born into the very GOD FAMILY as an immortal SPIRIT being in superlative GLORY and with creative power, under God and under Christ, to literally make over and renew the faces of planets throughout the vastness of endless SPACE!

It is true that hardly one in a thousand humans ever realizes, even partly, his purely human potential *as a human*.

The average human never utilizes even 5 percent of his mental powers. On the purely human level, man has the potential — if an American — of becoming President of the United States. Or of becoming a Thomas A. Edison or an Einstein.

But that potential is as nothing compared to the spiritual and transcendent potential of being born into the very GOD FAMILY — and inheriting the very capabilities of GOD!

Actually most of these exciting, inspiring, mind-expanding TRUTHS are never even remotely considered in the religious teachings of this world!

My book, *The Incredible Human Potential*, has appeared in bookstores all over the English-speaking world. It's a story too comprehensive to even begin to condense in this article.

Actually I feel with deep conviction that I myself really did not author this book — that the living Jesus Christ is its real author. I was merely like a stenographer writing it down. And with that understanding, I feel I may say that this is one of the most important — and most tremendously revealing — books since the Bible! Although it is sold in bookstores, interested readers may send for a free copy now, by mail. □

He's a One Man Army!

The Private Life of a REAL HERO

By John Ross Schroeder

He single-handedly took on an enemy nation, but his personal mistakes destroyed him.

With as many problems as we face today, it seems only natural for people to want superhuman heroes — heroes with the power to do something about crime, corruption and unfairness.

First there was the film *Superman*, followed by *Superman II* and then *Superman III*. The public couldn't get enough of the fantasy man from the planet Krypton.

The megaproblems that plague the 20th century seem to be beyond solution. So people seek out fictional characters who are able to eliminate tall problems in a single bound. Yet, in real life, the problems remain.

Is this the way problems should be solved? Would a real man of steel be the ultimate answer to today's troubles? There is an example from the past that could give us the answer.

Samson and you

A superhero with incredible strength lived some 3,000 years ago, at the time when judges

ruled the nation of Israel. His name was Samson.

Do you have a tough situation to face? Do others think of you as different and strange? Are you having to swim upstream? Well, so did Samson. From birth to death he could not drink a glass of wine. He had to beg off with water or the common nonalcoholic drink of the day.

Also Samson couldn't cut his hair in an age when every other man probably did. His special commission from God didn't allow him alcohol or the barber's razor. These factors probably made him a social outcast.

But Samson had one big thing going for him. It outweighed all the obstacles and problems that would confront him throughout his life. You see, Samson had a personal relationship with God. He knew his Creator. The Bible simply states: "And the child [Samson] grew, and the Lord blessed him" (Judges 13:24). God was on his side, even though almost no one else was.

Whatever problems you may face as a young man or young woman living in a crooked and perverse world, if you have a per-

sonal relationship with God, it's all going to come out right for you in the long run.

Samson and girls

Boy-girl problems were no stranger to Samson. He had a weakness for pretty Philistine women. The Philistines were the neighboring peoples who were dominating and oppressing the Israelites.

Samson's parents advised him to find an Israelite wife. But if Samson was a social outcast, perhaps the Israelite girls told him to push off. Maybe they just didn't like his long hair. Perhaps he seemed too much of an oddball — had too much religion.

So Samson followed his natural inclinations and went elsewhere for female companionship. He met a Philistine girl and asked his parents to get her for him so he could marry her. He wanted her in the worst way and so prevailed over his parents' wishes for an Israelite girl.

While getting ready for the wedding, Samson took time out to kill a raging lion with his bare hands. He really was the strong, silent type — he didn't even tell

anybody about it (Judges 14:5-9).

Stop and think about that. That took character. Usually we can't wait to tell others about our exploits. Maybe Samson didn't want any fame. Perhaps he was a very private person.

In the end his marriage went all wrong. His best man wound up with his wife and he was betrayed by both bride and father-in-law. Talk about things taking a turn for the worst. Such was his penalty for marrying into a different culture.

Still, though, God used the unfortunate incident to help Samson obliterate a whole army.

Samson — a one man army

Samson was the ultimate modern-day Superman. He was the Rambo of his day. First he virtually destroyed Philistine agriculture (Judges 15:4-5). Then he killed 1,000 men all by himself. He didn't need any modern weaponry like Rambo. He did it all with the jawbone of a donkey (verses 15-16).

Like the fictional characters, Superman and Rambo, Samson accomplished it all single-handedly. There was no help from his fellow countrymen. In fact, they betrayed him into the hands of the Philistines (verses 11-13). They didn't seem to really believe he had a commission from God.

There are lessons to be learned from the whole grisly account. Violence leads to more violence — and revenge leads to more revenge. It's a vicious cycle.

Samson himself said to the Philistines after they murdered his wife and father-in-law, "Since you would do a thing like this, I will surely take revenge on you, *and after that I will cease*" (Judges 15:7).

But revenge and violence didn't cease! (It doesn't today in Northern Ireland, India, Sri Lanka or the Middle East.) It only ended with the whole Philistine nation in tatters — all of its leaders in the grave — and Samson himself dead along with them. It's a serious mistake to think that one small act of re-

venge will end a dispute. No, it usually multiplies and accelerates out of control.

Samson continued to have affairs with Philistine women. That's when beautiful Delilah came on the scene (Judges 16:4).

She nagged and nagged and nagged some more — until she finally persuaded Samson to reveal the secret of his superhuman strength. Then she waited until he was asleep; called in a Philistine barber and had his hair cut. This was treachery and disloyalty of the worst kind.

But, again, there's a great lesson in this whole episode. Be careful with whom you become romantically involved. Take ad-

their victory, they called Samson into their temple to make fun of him. All the VIPs in the kingdom were there.

Now Samson was ready to deliver the knockout blow. It would take many decades to recover from this one. The strong man persuaded a young lad to station him between the pillars that held up the temple. There he prayed his last prayer. He asked for and received superhuman strength for the last time. Samson pushed the pillars over and the temple collapsed like a house of cards. About 3,000 people perished. It was an unimaginable disaster.

What it means for us

Samson's life must be understood in the context of the time in which he lived. He was a judge in Israel at a time when "everyone did what was right in his own eyes" (Judges 17:6, 21:25). It was an age of anarchy.

Do we repeat some of Samson's mistakes — or do we learn lessons from them? God has shown us once and for all that a human Superman is not the answer. After all, the Philistines did recover their national power in time to plague two well-known kings of Israel — Saul and David. Mass death was no permanent solution. And it took Samson's life as well.

"Now all these things happened to them [Old Testament Israel] *as examples*, and they were written for our admonition, on whom the ends of the ages have come" (I Corinthians 10:11).

Jesus Christ accomplished so much more than Samson — and, as a human being, He never killed anyone. When advised to misuse His supernatural powers, Christ replied: "For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them" (Luke 9:56).

Still, Samson's life was not in vain. His name is mentioned in the faith chapter of the Bible — Hebrews 11. He lived his life as an example for future generations. And God didn't give up on him. Samson finished the task he was given to do. □

**Do others
think of you as
different and
strange? Are you
having to swim
upstream? Well,
so did Samson.**

vice. Weigh all the factors. Ask God to guide you. Romance and marriage are serious business.

Samson went too far this time. His strength was gone. "The Lord had departed from him" (Judges 16:20). His captors put out his eyes. Never again would he look upon a pretty woman in this human life. He paid a heavy price for disobeying his parents and God.

But God wasn't through with Samson. His Creator didn't give up on him. He was chosen for a special mission from birth. God was determined that he should finish the job.

The Philistines let Samson's hair begin to grow (Judges 16:22). That turned out to be their big mistake.

Gloating and intoxicated over

Could You Be Growing **OLD** Before Your Time?

By Bernard W. Schnippert

He was tough — no one could push him around. He wanted everyone to treat him like an adult.

And when he was arrested, that's how he was treated. They put him in prison — just like an adult.

It makes you stop and think: all the young people who try desperately to grow up fast. Too often their attempts at sophistication and adulthood leave them scarred, battered — old before their time.

Growing up too soon happens all the time. It's happening to a girl I know. She wears lipstick, eye shadow and some amazing earrings. She also wears skimpy, bikini swimsuits and slinky, suggestive clothing. She is 6 years old.

Then there's the 16-year-old guy who was invited to a special teenage track meet, but decided not to go because he was too old and too sophisticated to be involved in such a childish activity. I'm 36 and I too was invited. I went. I had fun.

My grandfather's sign

When I think of growing up too soon, I think of a sign my grandfather had hanging in his living room when I was a teenager. He had made the sign himself, inlaying the carved wooden letters with care.

Its message must have been important to



him or else he would not have gone to the obvious effort involved in making the sign. But, at the time, its message made no sense to me.

It simply read, "We grow too soon old, and too late smart." I didn't understand it then, but now I can think of two or three possible meanings for it. When I think of the sad stories I've heard

ways, of course. Some will start smoking to try to look older and more sophisticated. Others will do drugs. Many want to date at the earliest possible moment. Some — far too many — will dabble with premarital sex in an effort to lurch into adulthood.

Then there are those who wrongly neglect their studies so they can work and buy the latest

disdain fun. The motion picture industry, for example, tends to portray things like sex, wild parties, drugs and crime as exciting things, all the while casting good, clean fun — like camping, fishing, sports or a family outing — as dull, boring.

The result? Teens who want to impress others with their grown-up attitudes shun things like family outings so they can just hang out on street corners, maybe smoking and looking cool and "adult."

Also, if you don't want to become too soon old, don't develop a turned-off and jaded attitude about life by stifling your emotional zest.

Once again, the motion picture industry often portrays the ideal man as the strong, silent type, afraid of nothing and no one, and


about as emotional and warm as a tree stump. Women's fashion magazines picture the ideal look as aloof, jaded, cool and condescending — bored and boring! Yes, it seems that the simple, outgoing excitement of youth is considered childish compared to such artificial sophistication.

Further, don't sacrifice your teachability. No one likes a know-it-all, so we must all force ourselves to be willing to listen and be taught. Don't have the restricted and restricting frame of mind that far too many people, old and young, develop — the attitude that no one can tell me anything I need or want to know.

The price of our toys

Also, don't be too quick to trade the carefree attitude of youth for the rat race of adulthood. That is, don't start thinking you will not possibly be happy unless you hurry up and get a job and lots of possessions — like the latest fashions or cars.

A child, it seems, can have fun
(Continued on page 29)



Young people, trying desperately to grow up fast. Too often their attempts at sophistication leave them scarred, battered — old before their time.

of teens growing up too fast, I think it means this: "Don't grow old too fast. And don't wait until you are old to smarten up."

You see them all the time — the teenagers who want to hurry up and quit being a kid. They're always trying to impress others with how mature they are, how tough they are and how involved they are in huge plans and ideas.

It seems they feel somewhat inferior that they are just teens and want to desperately be on their own and make it in the world. They try to grow up too soon.

Obsession with adulthood

I wish I could believe that this seeming obsession with growing up fast is rare, but I know that is not the case. I know from experience that many, if not most, teens try to dash onto adulthood as soon as they can. But too often the adulthood they seek turns out to be a counterfeit — one that leaves them scarred and prematurely old.

Different ones try it different

fashions or buy a car and zoom around town at will like their folks. Some like to dress seductively to look more adult. Others fall into crime. (They think it makes them sophisticated.)

And all of them, it seems, wind up becoming too soon old, and too late smart.

"But," some may be saying, "I don't understand. I thought you wanted us to mature. I thought that was one reason *Youth 86* exists in the first place!" You're right, we do want you to mature, but we don't want you to grow old before your time. And there is a difference, a big one.

It's OK to be young

Mature qualities of character, like responsibility, emotional control, good habits, personal grooming, goal setting and social skills are important. We do want you to learn these things. But please don't grow old before your time.

Don't, for example, start to neglect good old-fashioned fun by thinking all fun is kid stuff. It seems certain parts of our society

Are You Ready for an Earthquake?

News That Affects You

• The earthquake that hit Mexico City last September also hit people around the world with the realization of just how devastating this kind of natural disaster can be.

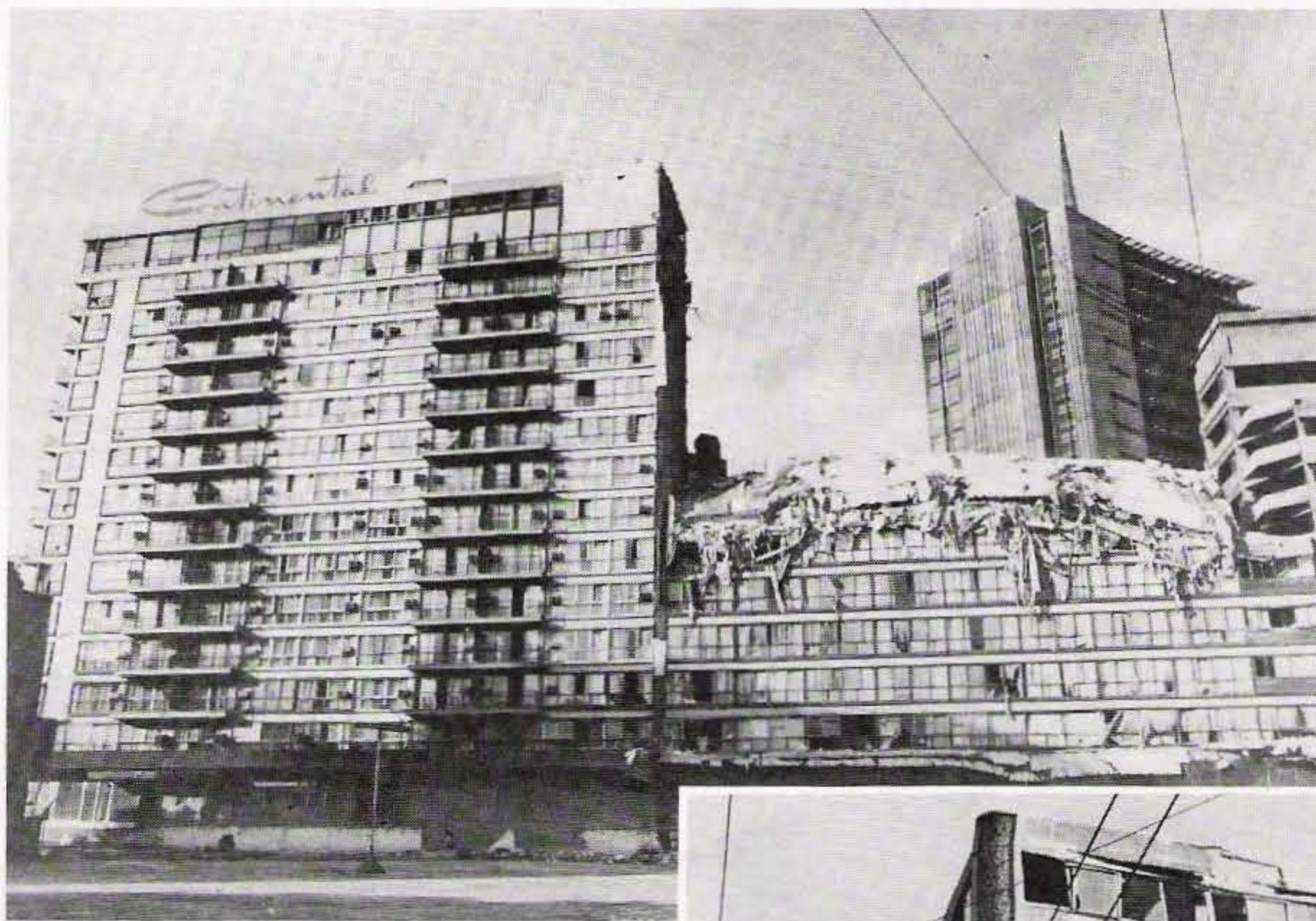
Since then, mild earthquakes have shaken the New York City area and evidence has mounted that America's Middle West may be due for a major quake. Since these two regions aren't usually thought of as earthquake country, many people are realizing that earthquakes are something for everyone to be prepared for — not just people who live in areas with lots of earthquakes.

You can't stop an earthquake from happening, but there are things you can do to increase your chances of surviving one.

Before the quake. Put an earthquake kit together. Include bottled water (a plastic container is best), foods that will stay fresh for a long time, a flashlight, a radio, fresh batteries for both and a small first-aid kit.

During the quake. Don't panic — that's one of the biggest killers in an earthquake. Another big danger is from falling objects. If you're indoors, get under a table, bed, desk or strong doorway. If outdoors, avoid power poles, high buildings, walls or other objects that could fall. If you're in a car, stay put. All that steel around you will help protect you from falling objects.

After the quake. Check for injuries on yourself and others — but don't attempt to move anyone who's seriously injured unless he



The earthquake that hit Mexico City last year shows the need for being prepared. (Photos: below, AP/Wide World; others, Salvador Barragan)



or she is in immediate danger. Shut off all electrical and gas lines. (If you don't know where they are, ask your parents now — *before* you need to know.) Don't attempt to use electricity or any kind of open flame. The



earthquake could have caused gas leaks. Don't try to use the phone except for genuine emergencies. Get your radio out of your earthquake kit and listen for earthquake instructions.

If you have other questions about earthquakes, talk to your parents. Together, you can all work out a plan that will help protect your family. — *By Lowell Wagner Jr.* □

You Don't Smoke? It Still Costs You

• You might be spending a big chunk of your money on cigarettes — even if you don't smoke!

A new report by the U.S. Office of Technology Assessment says that smoking in the United States costs as much as \$100 billion* a year in medical bills, early deaths and time lost from work. The OTA estimates this is a minimum of \$2.17 for every pack of cigarettes smoked. Some highlights of that report:

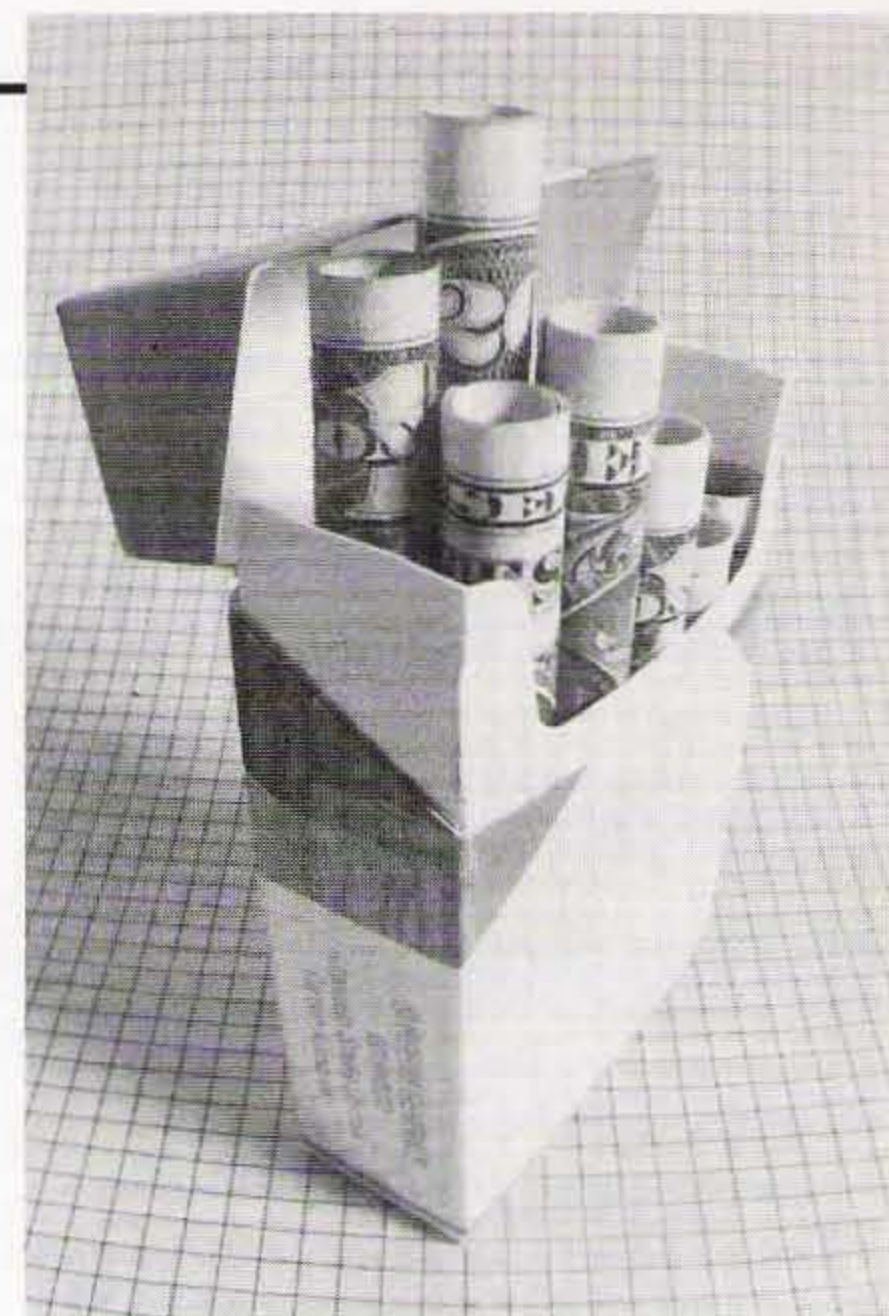
As much as \$35 billion a year is spent to treat smoking-related diseases with up to \$6.6 billion of these costs being paid for by

government programs.

As much as \$61 billion is lost each year because of losses in work productivity. Smoking also contributes to as many as 300,000 deaths a year.

About 50 million Americans smoke about 30 billion packs — 600 billion cigarettes — each year, the report said. It added that the medical costs of smoking are about 72 cents a pack and that productivity losses came to about \$1.45 a pack.

In the report, the OTA only counted cancers, heart disease and chronic respiratory diseases. It did not count the effects of other smoking-related hazards such as a higher risk of



miscarriage among pregnant smokers and the effects of smoke breathed in by nonsmokers.

Congressman Pete Stark said the study "confirms our suspicion that smoking is not only a deadly habit, but a costly one for the [national] health care budget."

— By Lowell Wagner Jr. □

*Thousand million, British usage.

The Mood of Teens Down Under

• How do Australian teens feel about their world and their future?

The newspaper *The Australian*

surveyed a group of young people from different backgrounds about moral, economic, social and academic issues. Here are some highlights:

Parents. Most teens surveyed see distinct advantages to living at home and are content with the amount of independence granted to them by their parents. Although they protested against curfews and other restrictions on their social lives, these restrictions are preferable to having parents who "don't care if you come home or not."

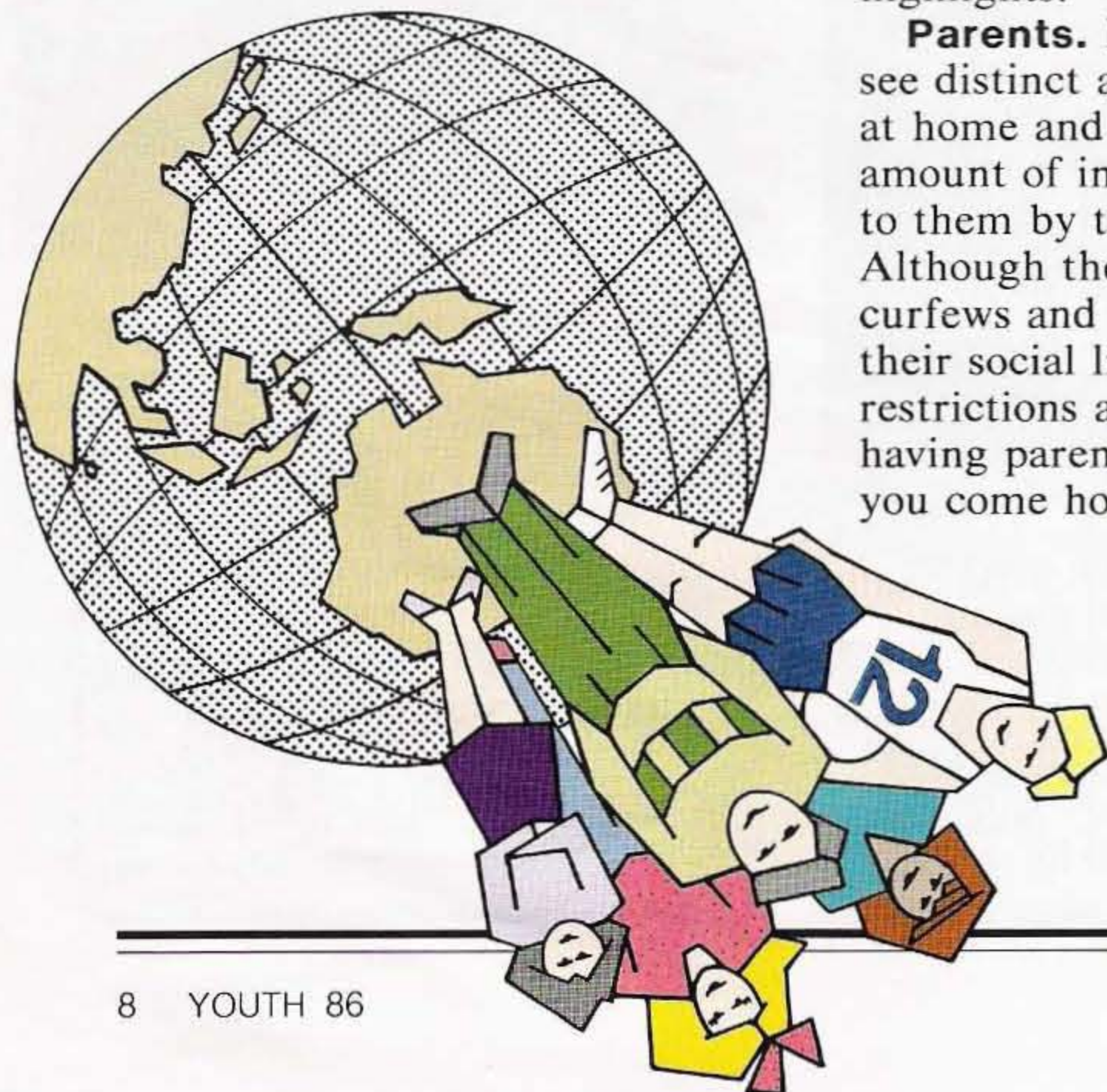
Religion. For most of the teens in the survey, religion is rarely discussed at home. Church attendance is almost nonexistent. Said

one youth, "At our age, if you are religious, you tend to be mocked anyway by friends and relatives." Still, most claim a belief in God.

Drugs were seen as one of the biggest problems facing young people in Australia. "I think I would have a harder time trying to buy a can of Coke than buying drugs," said a 17-year-old. Most of the teens surveyed were against legalization of marijuana.

Jobs. The unemployed in the group were pessimistic about future employment opportunities, but those still in school felt that they would have no trouble getting the job they wanted.

Better job qualifications and a "good social life" were mentioned as advantages of a higher education. A lack of income while pursuing that education



was the main disadvantage. Many of the young people surveyed said they planned to live at home until they had finished their education and were financially stable.

Nuclear war was identified as the biggest threat to the world, but most doubted that one would

ever be fought.

Australian teens, the newspaper concluded, "have high ambitions and generally remain optimistic in an era troubled by the threat of nuclear war, drug abuse and high unemployment."

— By Robert C. Taylor □

No heroes. A 14-year-old boy from California writes, "I don't have any 'big' heroes that I admire or try to be like, mainly because I want to start someone new, not make a copy or repeat."

Many of you said you admired your heroes, but didn't worship them. A 16-year-old girl from Australia writes, "It is true I do not have any heroes. What the world today classes as heroes, I class more as rogues. . . And that is why I have no heroes, as I believe a hero to be someone to follow in every aspect and there is no *human* that I know of as a *true* hero." □

Who Are *Your* Heroes?

• Who are your biggest heroes?

Last August, we asked that question in our Hero Survey. And did you answer! Responses poured in from around the globe.

We've finally dug out from under the avalanche of mail to bring you the results.

The boxes on this page give you the details about who your favorite heroes are. Let's take a look in this article at why some of you chose the most popular heroes in the survey.

Parents. Good old Dad and Mom are the biggest heroes in the survey. From Alabama, a 14-year-old girl writes about her parents: "Oh, I guess they've done about everything from changing my diapers to teaching me how to drive. . . . But most important of all, they have taught me the truth of the way of life that really works for the better."

"My father is technically blind," writes a 19-year-old boy from Saskatchewan. "He has accomplished so much despite his handicap it would take three hours to describe it all. He has used God's principle of success and made our home and family a success. He is my hero."

"I look up to my mom knowing she is a good and loving mother," writes a 16-year-old girl from Ohio. "I would someday like to be like her in my future role as a wife and mother. I have great respect for her and love her dearly."

God the Father and Jesus Christ. Many of you chose the perfect heroes — literally. A

16-year-old girl from Vermont writes, "God is one hero that you can always depend on, and you know He'll never do you wrong."

A 16-year-old boy from New York says, "My first choice is God because He changed me into a better person. I was really down when God put me back on my feet. I was taking pills to kill myself. He gave me a reason to live my life and enjoy every minute."

"My list of heroes and heroines is headed by the bravest and most courageous man that has ever walked the earth — Jesus Christ. This man was the most righteous man that has ever lived and He gave His life for a pack of sinners. I'd like to see Rambo beat that!" writes a 17-year-old girl from Trinidad.

Herbert W. Armstrong. Many of you said *Youth 86's* editor-in-chief was one of your biggest heroes. A 13-year-old girl from Louisiana writes, "Mr. Armstrong [is my hero] because he always encourages me to seek my goals and never stop."

An 18-year-old girl from Saskatchewan writes, "He is over the age of 90 already and he does more in one day than most of the teenagers reading *Youth 86* could do. Also one special aspect — he loves every last one of us teenagers and he does everything in his power to help us make our lives happier ones."



Top 10 Heroes

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|----|---------------------------------|
| 1 | Parents | 2 | God the Father and Jesus Christ |
| 3 | Publisher Herbert W. Armstrong | 4 | A Friend |
| 5 | U.S. President Ronald Reagan | 6 | A Minister |
| 7 | Princess Diana | 8 | Grandparents |
| 9 | Gymnast Mary Lou Retton | 10 | Singer Bruce Springsteen |

Top Five Categories

- | | | | |
|---|-----------|---|---------------|
| 1 | Religion | 2 | Entertainment |
| 3 | Family | 4 | Politics |
| 5 | Athletics | | |

How to Get a Party Rolling!

By Norman and Pamela Shoaf

Looking for a rousing party game to spring on guests at your next social event?

(After all, you didn't *really* intend for your last get-together to break up at 8:30, even though it did cure a couple of people who had had trouble sleeping.)

Well, here's a suggestion for you: bunco!

No, really, don't let the name fool you. Bunco is perfectly legal, fast-moving and only cautiously insane. It appeals, in a good-natured, balanced way, to that inner need we all have to win.

Bunco is excellent for medium to large groups, although the bedlam level increases with the number of people playing.

Here are the rules, at least the way you'll play if you're ever at a bunco party in our living room:

Number of players: Multiples of four, with a minimum of 12 people.

Room setup: A table for every four players. One table is referred to as the head table; the others are numbered in order: No. 2, No. 3 and so on.

Equipment: Dice (three to a table), one piece of paper for each player, a bell or other signaling device at the head table, a hole puncher, a score pad and pencil at each table and some sort of special token (it helps if the token is something funny).

To play: Players are assigned a table by the hosts. People sitting op-

posite each other are partners for the first round. One player at each table is given the dice for the first roll; players at each table should, in a good attitude, decide among themselves who rolls first.

One person at each table serves as the scorer. The score pad should be divided into two columns, one for each team at the table (for example, "We-They" or "Good Guys-Bad Guys").

Play begins when and only when the bell at the head table is rung, if these rules are to be at all effective.

Object: When the bell at the head table is rung, players holding the dice at all tables roll them, trying for 1s. For each 1 a person rolls, the scorer makes a tick or mark (you can keep track of groups of five, picket-fence style) in the column for the roller's team. The person rolling the dice may continue to roll

them as long as he or she continues to get at least one 1, scoring a point for each. If the person rolls the dice and fails to get any 1s, he or she passes the dice to the left and that person rolls to try to get 1s for his or her own team. Play continues in this manner to the left.

When a team at the head table reaches 21 points, the bell at the head table is rung and play at all tables stops. Scores at each table are tallied and a winning team for each table is determined. Winning players at each table have a hole punched in their pieces of paper. (It's considered in bad taste to bring one's own hole puncher for personal, secret use at a bunco party.)

Note: Players at every table except the head table may continue to amass points beyond 21. Only when a team at the head table reaches 21 does the play cease.

Moving: After the winning teams at all tables are determined for the first round, players move as follows: Winners from each table move up to the next highest table (that is, winners from table No. 6 would move up to table No. 5 and so on), changing partners. Winners from table No. 1 stay at that table, except that they change part-

(Continued on page 27)



It's not what it seems! This fast-moving party game has nothing to do with gambling or any illegal activity. They should have called it *fun!*

A photograph of a wooden desk with a quill pen and an inkwell. The quill is white with a dark tip and is resting on a stack of yellowed papers. The inkwell is black and sits to the left of the quill. In the background, there are several books with worn, dark covers. The lighting is warm, highlighting the textures of the wood and paper.

You Can Create Songs Without Music

By Barri Armitage

Here's a popular hobby that allows you to express yourself creatively.

Sentiments strong are they. We sing them, we send them and we savor their sounds.

Poems are all around us: in song lyrics, greeting cards and even the rhymes we learned in the nursery. Whether set to music or not, poems can sing and soar, because their inner music comes from their words and meanings.

Poetry is a hobby many enjoy. It opens new vistas of expression and creativity. Whether audience or author, it can enrich our lives.

In his book *Reading Poetry*, Fred Millett defines poetry

as “language measured and supercharged.” Just as perfume is distilled into a concentrated fragrance, so poetry condenses language into words that powerfully express drama, emotion and thought.

Poetry pauses at the end of lines — wherever the poet wants to make you stop and think. As you picture the scene and thoughts, line by line, you experience what he or she has experienced.

Poetry is written about subjects we all think about: God, other people, nature, life, death. It’s based on emotions we have all felt: love, sorrow, joy. But it is a craft, and thus controls and directs emotion into an art form, as in music or painting.

Poetry at its best directs our feelings into a broader vision and understanding. See Psalms 38 and 39 for examples of how King David did this.

Tools of poetry

Poets use certain tools, such as repeated sounds, rhythms, analogies and imagery (word pictures). From childhood, you have heard rhyme: words that end with the same sound. Especially in modern poetry, you’ll see that rhyming words don’t always fall at the end of lines. Notice *tumble* and *jumble* in “Carpool” (see box). The ear can find pleasure in the repetition even when the rhyme is scattered.

Repeated sounds can also be at the beginning or middle of words, not only at the end. Hear the *s* sound in “squeeze-serious-streaks-sun”? And the *i* in “ring-stinkpot-distill-skinny-flinch-linger-whisper”? Sound repetition is part of the music of poetry.

Rhythm is the beat. In songs the pulse is obvious. The rhythm in “Carpool” is more subtle. Read it aloud. Notice how the fast pace of the first two lines matches the energy of the tumbling children. Hear how the many *k* sounds in the last two lines of the first stanza slow you down — along with the mood. That’s rhythm.

Consider another tool — analogies — and you’ll find you have used some yourself. Have you ever cried “It’s raining cats and dogs!” as you ran in the door soaking wet? Analogies compare one idea to another.

The heart of poetry

Analogies are the heart of poetry because the writer can imply much in few words. As a reader, you bring your own associations into play, thinking and feeling the ideas. In Job 41:27, the dreaded beast, Leviathan, “regards iron as straw, and bronze as rotten wood.”

Picture iron being bent in its mouth and bronze crumbling as the beast moves. See how much more powerfully the idea comes across than if it had read, “Leviathan is strong”? The analogy lets you experience the reality of that strength.

Imagery is closely related to analogy. Like dreams, poetry moves in pictures. Poets use detail and strong verbs as a painter uses color to put you in the picture. In “Carpool,” after the insult, can you see the scene: Rachel — still, except for a nervous tugging at her braid; the others — a turmoil of wiggles and monkey calls? That’s a word picture or imagery.

Here are some tips to help your enjoyment of poetry:

1. *Read, but be choosy.* Go for the best. Ask your teacher or librarian for suggestions.

2. *Read poetry slowly.* Read it aloud. Savor the words. Let the pictures and meaning sink in.

3. *Think about the analogies.* What qualities are alike between two things being compared? In “Carpool,” how are the children like clothes tumbling out of the dryer? The rays like tongues of Bible prophets? The morning of the next day like the morning of a new world of peace?

4. *Write.* Be brave. Share your experiences in “measured supercharged language.” After the first draft, go back and rework it. Professional poets write and rewrite. You always understand and appreciate an art more after you’ve tried it.

If you want to share your poems, what can you do? Perhaps your school produces a literary magazine or your school newspaper prints poetry. Check with your English teacher for other ideas. [Editor’s note: We’re sorry, but *Youth 86* has no outlet for poetry at this time.]

5. *Look around you.* Keep your ear tuned to the pictures, analogies and rhythms of life. It’s poetry — for you! □

CARPOOL

After-school bodies tumble into my van
like a basket of warm clothes.
Above the jumble, Jane rings out:
“My mama says Jews are stinkpots. Rachel is a stinkpot.”
The lone eyes of centuries distill into a third grader
as Rachel stares, tugging at a skinny braid.
I flinch, crushing backseat monkey cries with a look.

At Rachel’s flowered drive, I linger,
finding no words, settling for a hug.
“Don’t worry about Jane,” she whispers.
“We’ll play in the morning.”
I squeeze her serious shoulders and drive on,
as violent streaks of red-eyed sun,
like the tongues of a thousand prophets, beg
for morning to come.

Barri Armitage

What's It Like to Be a Teen in ITALY?

By Ford Burden

Take a look at Mediterranean life with a particularly Italian flavor.

What do you think of when you hear the word *Italian*?

Do you think of sleek, high-powered sports cars — Maseratis, Ferraris and Lamborghinis?

How about stylish leather handbags and shoes? Delicious pizzas and pastas? Or perhaps you picture a dark-haired man talking excitedly and gesturing with his hands.

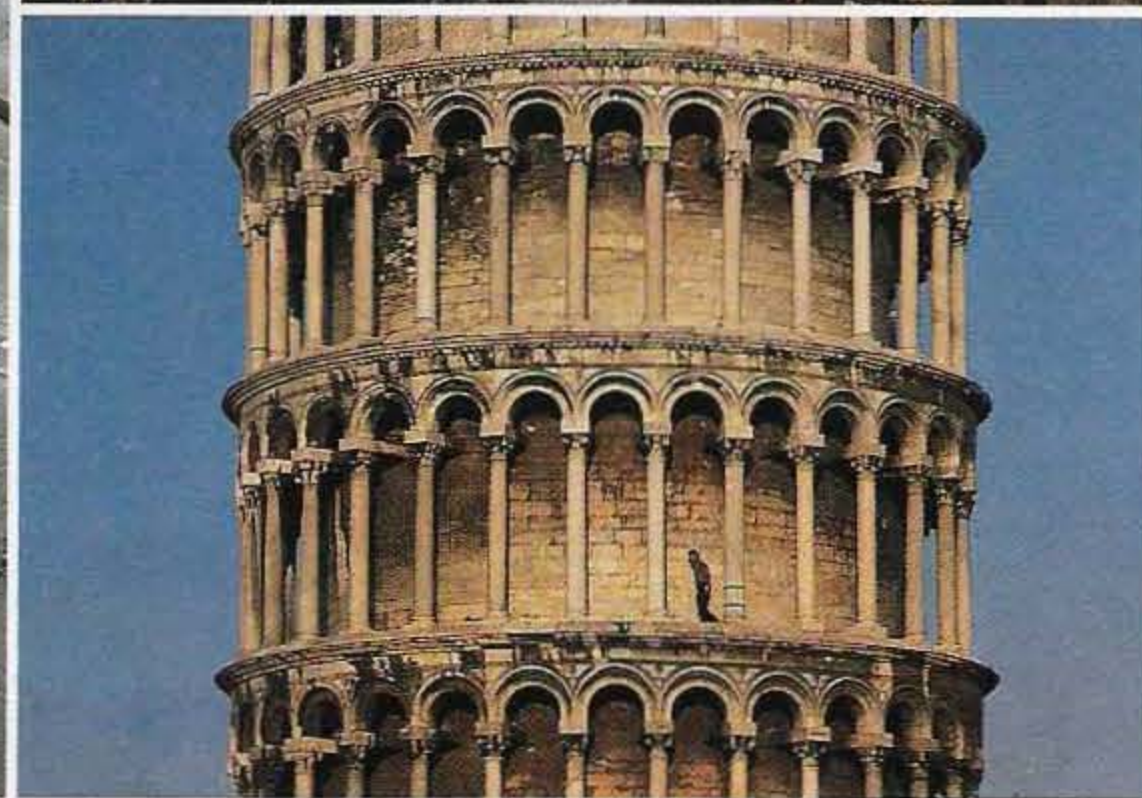
Italy has all of these and much more! Let's take a closer look to see what life is like for young people there.

The mainland of Italy is a long boot-shaped peninsula, jutting out from south-central Europe into the Mediterranean Sea. Italy's two islands, Sicily and Sardinia, are the Mediterranean's largest.

Italy is a mountainous country with a land area of 116,303 square miles (302,387 square kilometers) — a little more than the state of Arizona.

Regional differences

Italy's 56 million people are spread out over 20 different regions. Young people living in the central and southern regions of Italy are likely to experience a typical Mediterranean climate



with mild winters and hot, dry summers. Northern Italy is more urban and industrialized, and has cold winters.

In addition to the Italian language, which is spoken throughout the country, there are hundreds of local dialects. For example, the people of Sicily speak a dialect called Sicilian.

Napoletano is spoken by the residents of Naples.

Even small communities are known to have their own dialects. Italian is the language of education, business and the media. Some Italian teens communicate only in their local dialect at home, but when they go to school they speak the national Italian.

Southern Italy and Sicily are more rural, conservative and less affected by contemporary trends in fashion and culture than the north.

Teen social life

"Dating as we know it in America does not exist in Sicily," says Francesca, a native of Sicily. "Dating is allowed only for people who are engaged or close to

Above: A gondola travels the Grand Canal in Venice; friendly faces in Fiuggi; and the Leaning Tower of Pisa. (Photos by Greg S. Smith)

it. Teens always go to places in groups rather than pairs."

Luciano grew up in Siena, in the central-north of Italy. The social customs there, such as dat-

Between 2 and 4 p.m., streets are almost deserted. People go home for lunch with the entire family.

ing, are more like those of America and other Western countries.

“Life there for a teen is still distinctively Italian,” he says. “An open-air market, common in most Italian towns, is usually operating one day each week. Everything is sold there — from meat, clothing and music tapes to household items, foods and sweets. The market is held on one of the town’s main streets, and is a big social occasion for teens. Thousands go up and down the street on market day, meeting and talking with friends.”

In late autumn and winter many people can be found on street corners selling chestnuts roasted on a brazier with hot coals. This is a popular snack for Italians, including teens, during this time of year.

Going dancing is a popular attraction for young people on Saturday and Sunday nights. Afterward they may all go for a pizza.

Many teenagers in Italy have scooters. They are required to be at least 14 years old to legally drive cycles with 50-cc. engines or smaller. When a teen becomes 16, he or she may apply for a license to drive cars and larger motorcycles.

One common misconception about Italians is that they all have dark hair and dark eyes. Actually,

there are many blond-, brown- and red-haired Italians.

Pizza, Italian style

The pizza in Italy is surprisingly different from pizza in some other parts of the world. “Pizza is very simple in Italy,” says Francesca. “The usual pizza is just tomato sauce and cheese. It is quite common to order sardines for your pizza. You may also order chopped boiled eggs,



Map by L. Greg Smith

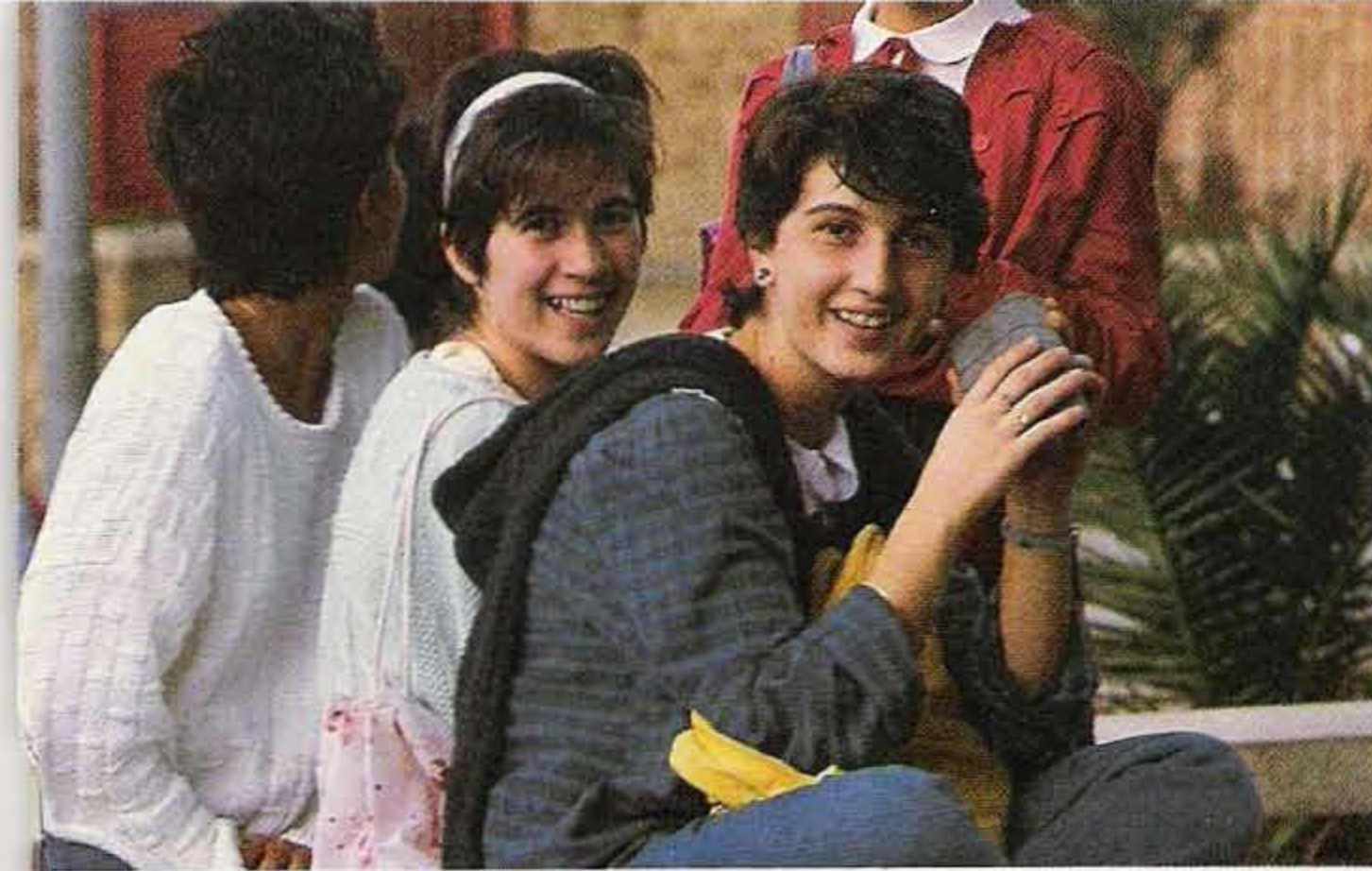


Above: The remnants of ancient Rome keep the past alive for throngs of tourists; Italian students pause to chat; and an early morning view of Portofino, a town on the Italian Riviera. (Photos by Ford Burden and Greg S. Smith)



Siena is an ancient hilltop town known for its annual running of the Palio — a horse race held in the city’s piazza (main square).

Passionate, cheering spectators fill the piazza, which is shown here just to the left of the tower. (Photo by Greg S. Smith)



Italy offers an environment and life-style with a flavor all its own, and Italians savor their national and cultural heritage. Below, counterclockwise: A gentleman poses in his hometown of Fiuggi, about 60 miles (95 kilometers) southeast of Rome; a gondola quietly crosses under the Rialto Bridge in Venice — a city where residents travel mostly by boat or foot (Photos by Greg S. Smith); Francesca's family, shown here, is from Catania, Sicily. (Photo by Ford Burden)



causes tremors and mild earthquakes, reminding the people of Catania of its immense power and potential threat.

Education

It is not uncommon for an Italian school to start at 8:30 a.m. and finish at 1:30 p.m. Students don't bring lunches or eat at school. Since classes are over so early in the afternoon, they have time to return home for lunch.

The system of grading is also different. There are no percentage or letter grades, such as *As* or *Bs*. Students are given a "judgment" — either insufficient, sufficient or good. The teacher decides whether the student is able to proceed to the next

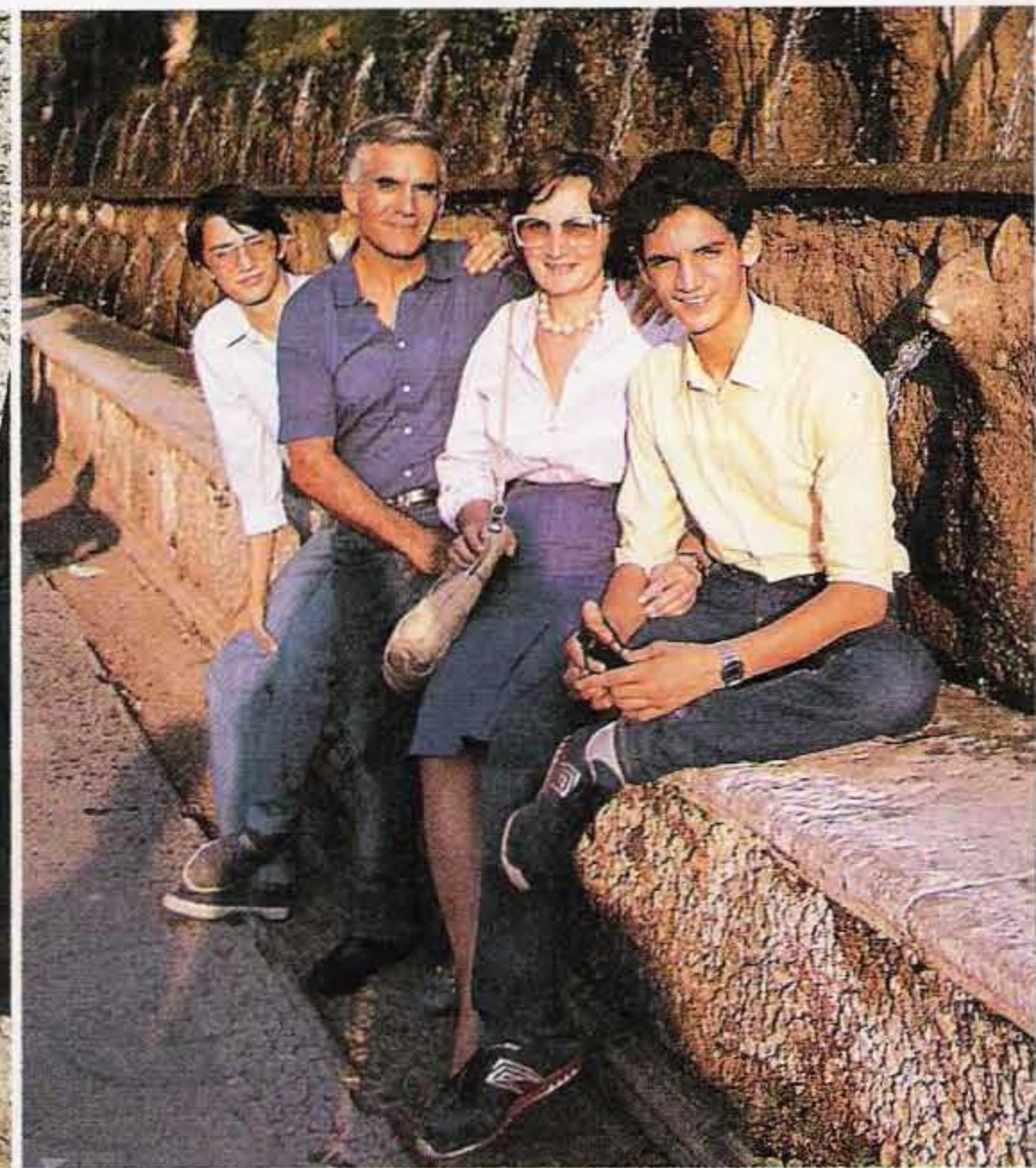
(Continued on page 24)

peas, salami and bacon, but never ground beef."

Italians also have an interesting food called *schacciata*, which means crushed. It varies throughout the country. Luciano explains that in Siena, *schacciata* is similar to pizza. There it is made of flour and salt with olive oil poured on top. It is like a crisp, oily bread.

In Sicily, Francesca says, *schacciata* has the same dough as pizza and is round, but it looks more like a huge pancake with its ingredients on the inside. It is cooked with all sorts of green vegetables such as spinach, peas and broccoli, with melted white cheese — usually fontina or a cheese called tuna. Both have a mild taste similar to mozzarella cheese.

Francesca also mentioned a dangerous aspect of her home area. Just outside of Catania, Sicily, is the infamous Mt. Etna. It is Europe's tallest, most active volcano. Although its last eruption was in 1983, it occasionally



The SPIDER'S Side of the Story

By Wilma Vernich

Here's what little Miss Muffet didn't know about these fantastic web spinners.

“Little Miss Muffet/Sat on a tuffet,/Eating her curds and whey;
There came a big spider,/Who sat down beside her/And frightened Miss Muffet away.”

Or so one version of the old nursery rhyme goes. And, just like Miss Muffet, most people today feel fear and revulsion toward spiders. The few spiders that are dangerous to humans continue to give all the other species a bad name.

Although reading this article is no guarantee that you will learn to love spiders, it could give you a better understanding of these misunderstood creatures.

Spiders are grouped by scientists with other animals without backbones. Instead of a backbone, spiders have an external skeleton (exoskeleton) that can be compared to a suit of armor. It is tough enough to protect the delicate internal organs of the spider, yet flexible enough to allow for ease of movement. You've seen how fast a spider can crawl!

There are some 40,000 species of spiders. Some of the most interesting species are the jumping spiders. These unusual little spiders can perform amazing leaps up to 40 times their own length!

Spiders come in every color of the rainbow including orange, yellow and pink, like the pink female crab spider.

They live in many different places — in water, caves, sand dunes, deserts, flowers, trees and other vegetation. You can find them under stones and logs. Many a homemaker occasionally finds one in her home, much to her chagrin, for they often leave behind cobwebs that collect dust. However, spiders aren't really dirty or nasty creatures.

Fascinating features

Each family of spiders has its own peculiar, and

often fascinating, characteristics. Most spiders have eight eyes, but some only have six. Eyes are absent altogether in some cave-dwelling species. One thing that all spiders do have in common is that they all possess eight legs, making them distinguishable from insects, which have six legs.

The majority of spiders range in size from 2-mm. (less than 1/8 inch) to 50-mm. (2 inches long). Then there are the large tropical spiders that are big enough to capture small birds.

All spiders are carnivores (eat other animals) and they catch and kill their food in different ways. Most feed on small insects like flies, grasshoppers, small beetles, butterflies and moths. A few species, found in the jungles of Brazil, catch small snakes, lizards and frogs.

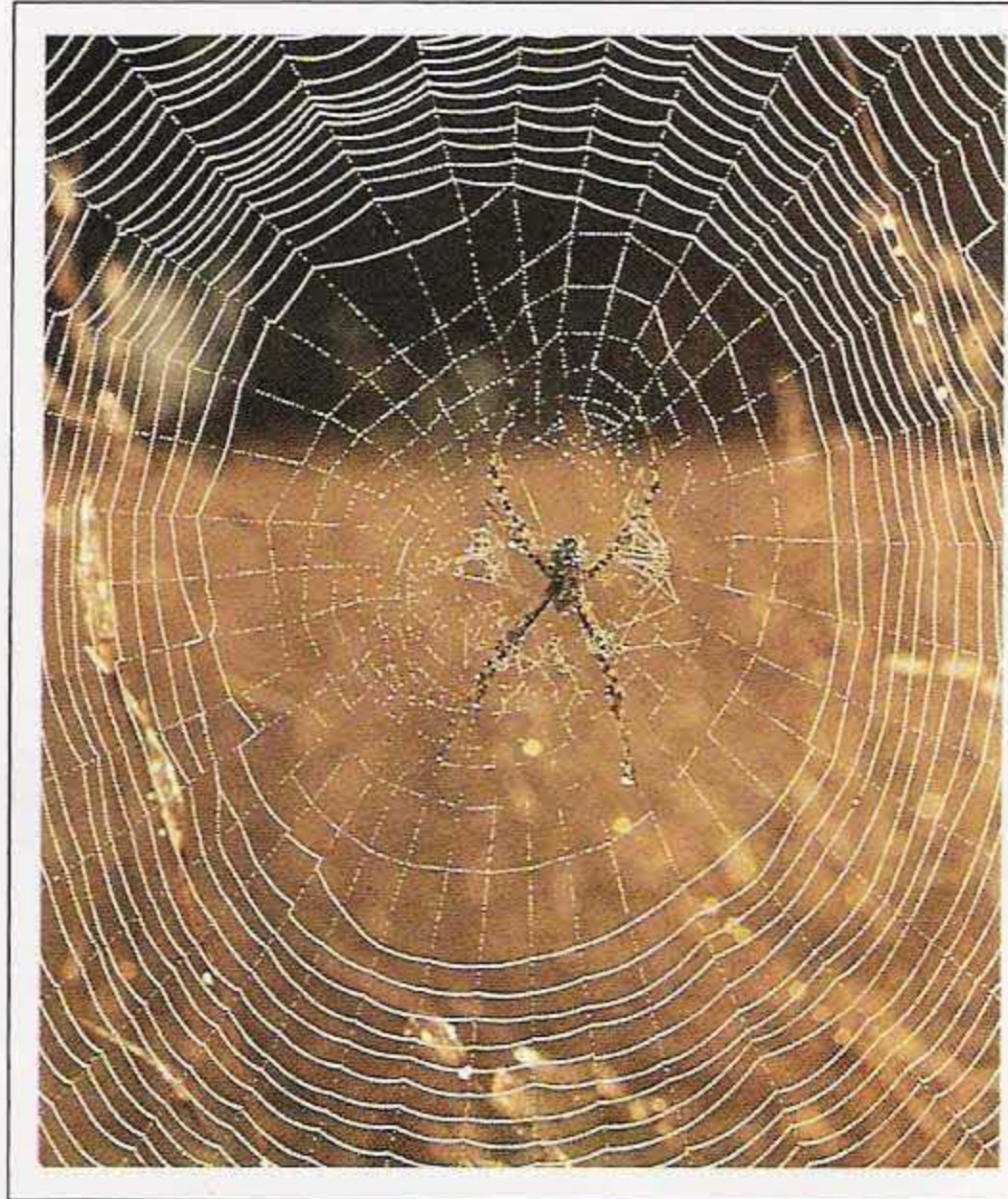
The spiders commonly known as tarantulas in the United States are quite fearsome looking and deliver a painful bite if handled carelessly, but only a few spiders like the black widow can be considered really dangerous to man. In the United States, the

chances of dying from the bite of a black widow spider are about as good as being struck by lightning or having a tree fall on your head.

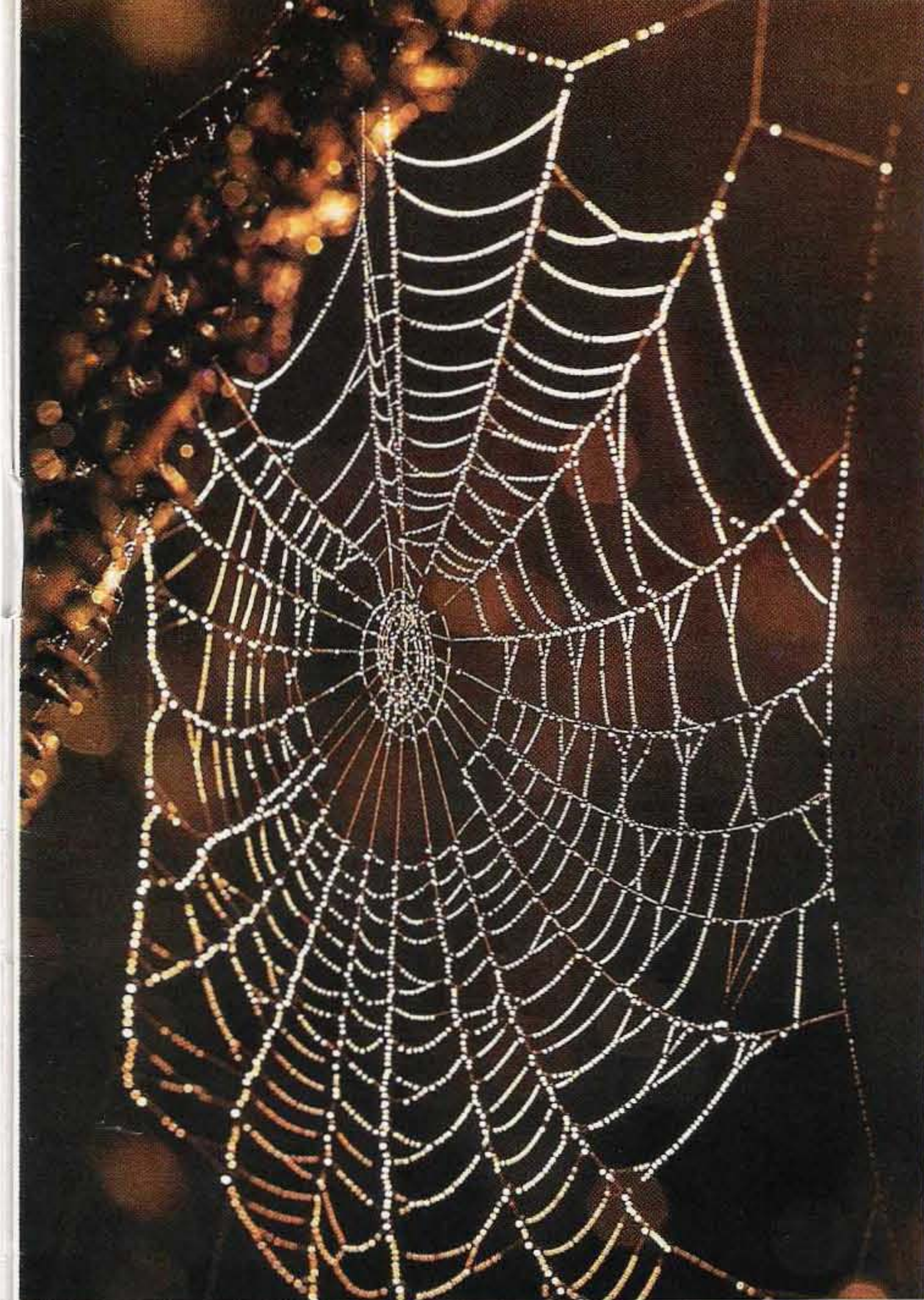
In their book *Spiders of the World*, Rod and Ken Reston-Mafham say, “The bite of a number of spiders in European countries other than Britain may cause unpleasant symptoms, but these are very rarely, if ever, fatal.”

It may come as a relief to some people to know that most spiders live for only one season. The males usually lead shorter lives than females.

Even though many a frightened human may
(Continued on page 24)



Spiders come in a wide variety of shapes and sizes — there are about 40,000 different species! All spiders produce silk, and most use it to weave intricate and effective webs like those shown here.



IDEAS PLUS

Down With the Hiccups

You are sitting in class when it happens: "hic! . . . hic! . . . hic!" The other students begin to giggle at you!

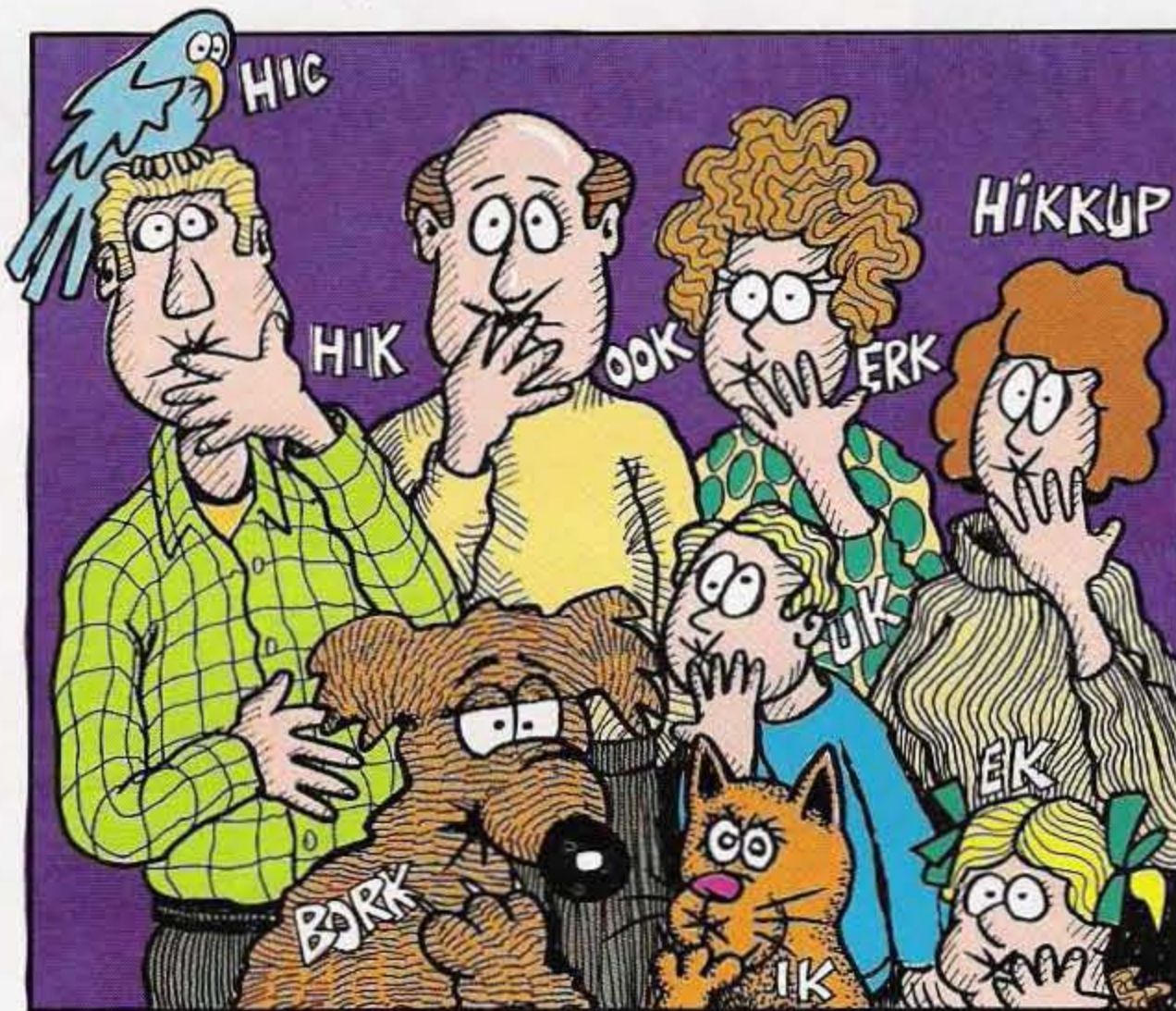
You try everything you've heard of to stop the hiccups. You hold your breath — it doesn't work. You try pulling hard on your tongue — it doesn't work (and, besides, it looks silly!). You even put your head between your knees. Nothing seems to work.

Finally, you ask the teacher for permission to walk the halls until the horrible "hic!" goes away.

Doctors know *how* hiccups work, but they aren't sure *why*. Probably what you want to know about, though, is how you can get rid of them. Here are a few tricks people around the *Youth 86* offices use:

- Get a glass of water and take 11 swallows without breathing. (It has to be exactly 11!) The swallows can be tiny, but don't breathe between.
- Eat peanut butter (creamy or crunchy).
- Hold your breath and plug your ears at the same time. Repeat until the hiccups stop.
- Breathe deeply and think about something else.
- Eat dry bread or a teaspoon of sugar.

- Put ice chips in your mouth.
 - Suck on a fresh lemon.
- Doctors say that some of these unusual remedies may work by stimulating nerves to counteract whatever caused the hiccups.
- Most people around here knew of only one way that actually worked for them, though they



had heard of many "remedies." Stick with what works for you and be thankful your hiccups will only last a few minutes! —
By Melody Faulkner □

How Poor Richard Got on the \$100 Bill

When Ben Franklin was a boy, his father often read Proverbs 22:29 to him. "Do you see a man who excels in his work? He

will stand before kings; he will not stand before unknown men."

By the end of his life, Benjamin Franklin stood before five kings.

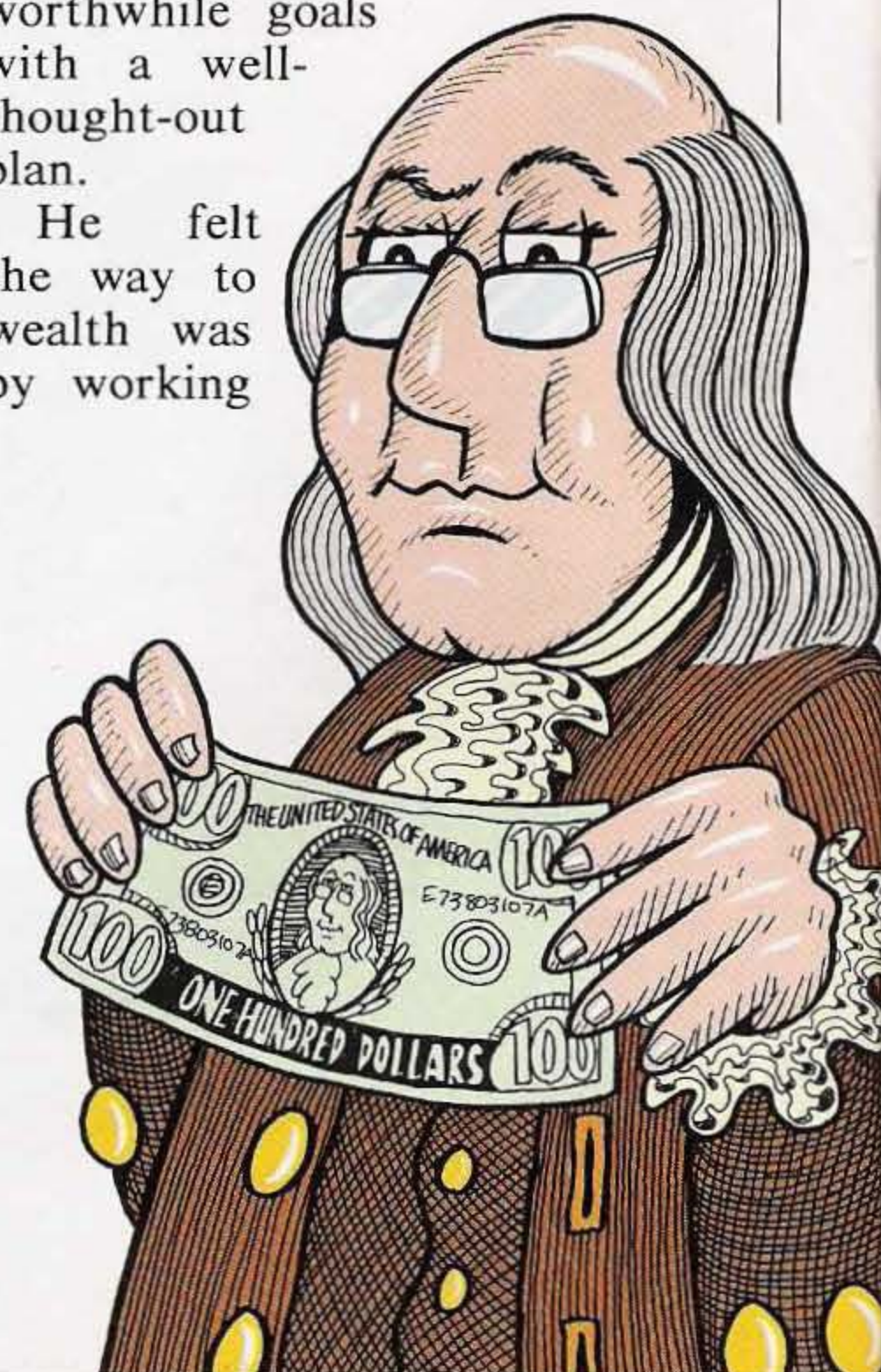
But it wasn't easy for the tenth of 17 children in a poor family. *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin* is the story of Franklin's rise from the poverty of his childhood to gain the admiration of millions around the world.

From an early age, he was fascinated with reading. It improved his thinking and broadened his horizons, opening up new worlds to him.

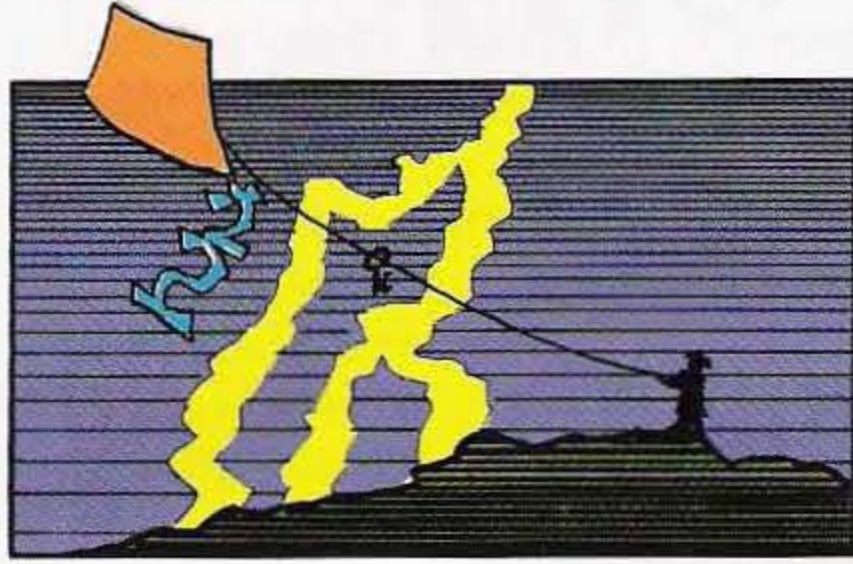
It was only natural that young Ben entered the printing business where he was surrounded by books. After gaining several years experience, he set up his own printing shop.

Through great effort and thrift, the business thrived. Franklin became well known for his hard work. He felt that a man with reasonable abilities could achieve great success if he diligently pursued worthwhile goals with a well-thought-out plan.

He felt the way to wealth was by working



hard and not being wasteful. But he also believed that money and influence were tools with which to do good. He believed that God was most pleased when people served one another.



In his scientific research, he sought practical and useful applications to what he learned, striving to turn science into a servant of man. His most famous experiment was when he, as one historian wrote, "snatched the lightning from the sky" with a

kite to show that lightning was similar to electricity.

Franklin also became a leading editor and publisher. He published the popular and influential *Poor Richard's Almanac*, which was both entertaining and useful.

Among other things, the *Almanac* was filled with proverbs that contained wisdom from many ages, such as: "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," "There will be enough sleeping in the grave," "Beware of little expenses; a small leak will sink a great ship" and other lessons on diligence and thrift.

Why not check out a copy of Benjamin Franklin's autobiography the next time you're at the library? You'll find it to be a fascinating and inspiring story. — *By Rod Sedliacik* □

The wise king compared the walls of a fortress to the emotional walls people build around themselves when they feel hurt. He knew these emotional walls could often be more impenetrable than the walls of even the strongest fortresses in his kingdom.

He also knew that trying to break through these emotional walls using sheer, brute force was useless.

As a matter of fact, going on the offensive can have disastrous effects on relationships. The results suffered by both parties may be nearly impossible to overcome.

Angry words carelessly spoken during disagreements often cause people to get defensive. When someone's emotions are threatened by a verbal attack, down come the bars, shut go the doors and up comes the drawbridge. Such a person is quite reluctant to come out from behind those bars again. And there's no use trying to force your way in.

There is no winner in this battle. For some, the wounds

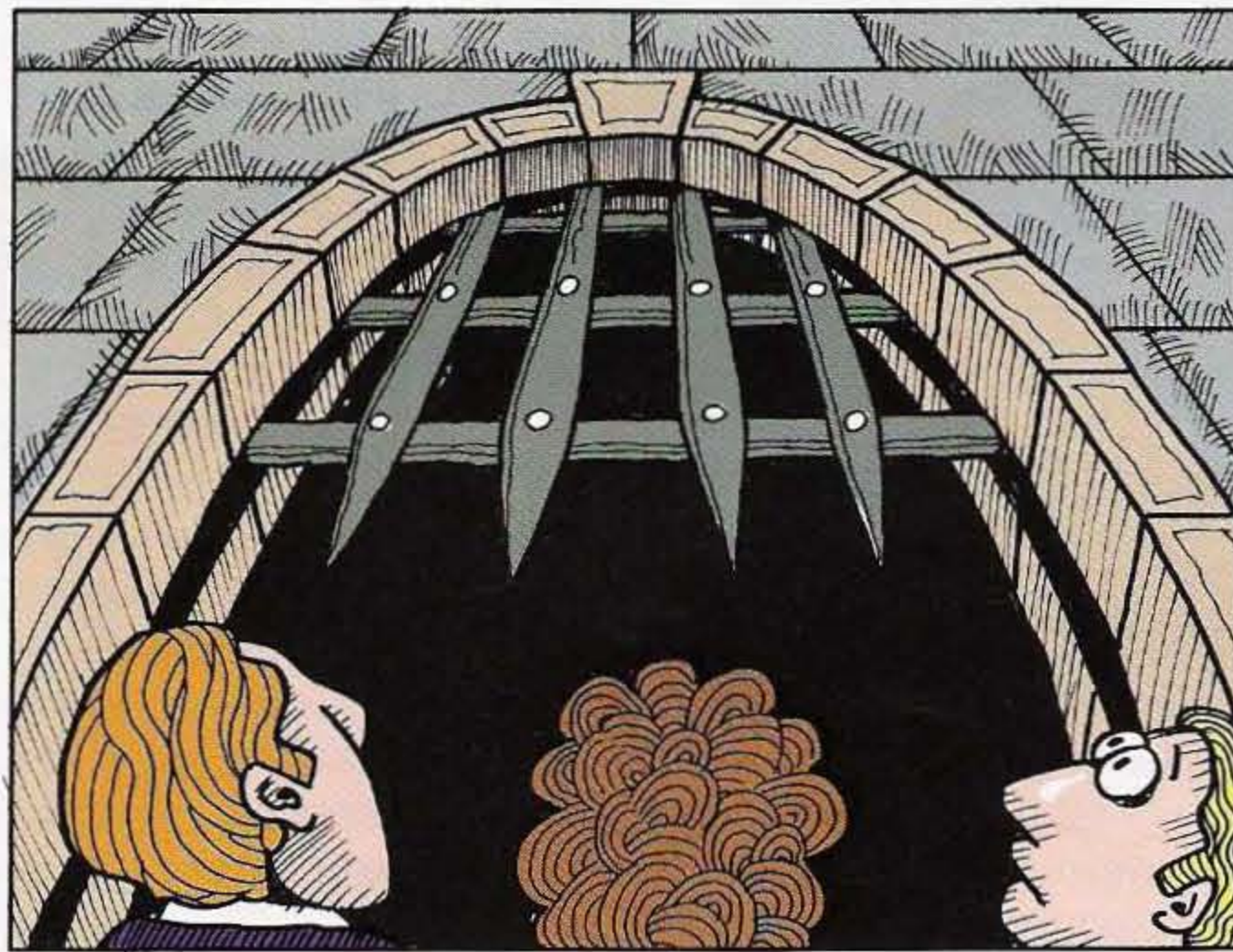
Proverbs for Today: Don't Let the Gate Slam Shut

"I wouldn't stand under there for long. That gate still comes down, you know."

We looked up above our heads to where the tour guide was pointing. The thick, iron bars hanging in the gateway looked menacing with their sharp tips pointing down at us. We took the guide's advice and moved!

We were touring one of Britain's medieval castles. It was like walking 900 years back in time.

This old, fortified castle must have been nearly impossible for enemies to conquer. The moat around the high rock walls, the towers, the drawbridge and the massive wooden gates with huge beams seemed quite secure. And if that wasn't enough, inside the entrance tunnel was that great gate of iron bars. It would have thundered down in front of any intruder who made it that far.



What do castles and people sometimes have in common? If you've ever had your feelings hurt (or hurt someone else's), you know that people can put up defenses stronger than any castle.

suffered may last a long, long time. Is there a way to restore good relations?

King Solomon, who lived 3,000 years ago, was quite familiar with the fortresses of his time. He talked about their strength in Proverbs 18:19: "A brother offended is harder to win than a strong city, and contentions are like the bars of a castle."

How can you dismantle these emotional walls and bars? We'll look at that in next month's "Proverbs for Today."

Remember those iron bars in that old castle. Don't give anyone cause to slam them down in front of you. — *By Jim Roberts* □

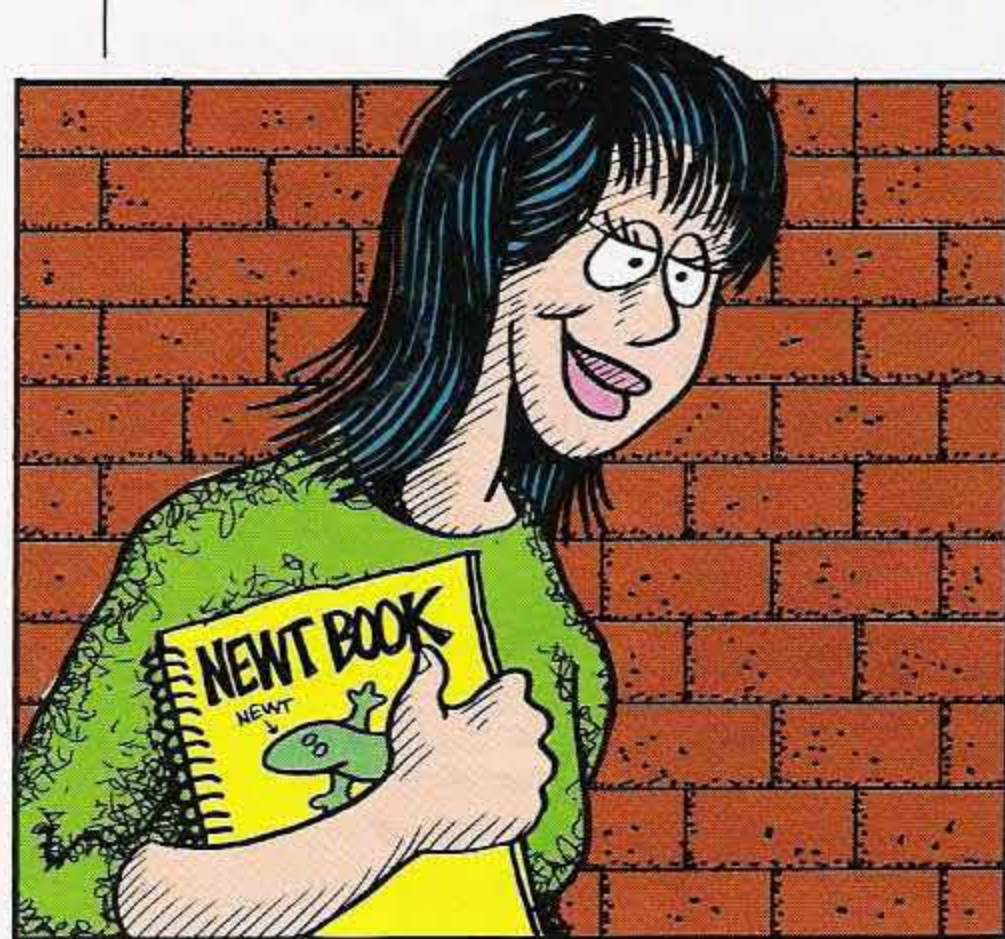
Upgrade Your Notes

I hadn't talked to my friend Michelle since graduation. We're both college freshmen, so we talked excitedly about college and our many new experiences.

We discussed a few of the things we were having to adjust to. The main difficulty was that our semester grades are based mainly on the results of tests.

Michelle said she wished she had learned to take better notes *before* she got to college. It would certainly have saved a lot of test-time anguish! I had to agree with her.

Do you often find yourself wishing you would get higher grades in school? Your method of taking notes can make the difference now, as well as later if you go to college. According to



Dr. John W. Wilde, vice-president of EduQuest, a California-based educational development firm: "If you don't take good notes in class, you can ruin yourself in a course."

Taking notes in class helps you pay attention and organize what your teacher has to say. Here are several note-taking hints that can help you raise your grades — and learn more too!

- Don't try to write down everything your teacher says.

Take one or two pages of notes for a one-hour lecture, noting examples, exceptions, important facts, names, dates and numbers. Summarize the main points in your own words.

- When listening, watch for cues from your teacher as to what is important: visual aids (such as maps or writing on the chalkboard), gestures, pauses and voice intensity.

- Use ink, not pencil. Ink is easier to read and doesn't fade. You may want to use a different color pen to help highlight the main points of a lecture.

- Leave a wide margin on one side of your paper or at the bottom for additional comments

or questions you may have from your reading.

- Mark important information by underlining, circling or highlighting. It will be easier to spot when you study.

- The main purpose of taking notes is to review them for better understanding. Reviewing your notes can help you retain 80 to 90 percent of the material covered. (For more on how this works, see "Improve Your Memory — and Your Grades" on page 20 of the December issue.)

Follow these points and after your next test you will be able to note your success! — *By Alisa Ferdig* □

You CAN Do It!

"Who me? I could never do that!"

How many times has fear of failure stopped you from doing something you really wanted to do? Maybe you wanted to join a new club, try out for a sport, take an unusual class or just do something out of the ordinary — but fear of failing or being laughed at stopped you.

Being afraid to try new things can limit your horizons. You can miss out on some great experiences by not giving yourself a chance. (Of course, not everything is worth taking a risk for. Don't be tempted to try something that isn't safe, that you know is wrong or that is just plain stupid. Pick your risks wisely.)

Here are some tips to help you overcome your fears and start on the road to an exciting life!

- Let your fear "tune you up." After you have decided to try something new, don't let fear hold you back. Use that extra charge of adrenaline that fear gives you to propel you forward

toward your goal.

- Prepare. If you're trying out for a team, ask someone who has tried out before to tell you what happens at the tryouts. If you know what to expect, you'll be more confident.

After you've gotten some information, rehearse in your mind what you expect to happen. Imagine yourself giving a perfect performance, successful job interview or whatever it is that you are preparing for.

- Seek encouragement and support from someone, perhaps a parent, friend or teacher. Pray about it and realize that God will help you, too.

- Don't be crushed if you fail. There will be times when you do fail, but don't get discouraged. Pick yourself up, analyze why you failed and try again.

- Reward yourself for trying. For example, maybe have an ice cream sundae. Treat yourself to some small pleasure that will act as a pat on the back.

Confronting your fears is an important skill to develop. The next time you are faced with a challenge, don't hide behind "I'm scared." Take that challenge! It could be one of the best moves you've ever made. — *By Kathy Burch* □

Teen Bible Study

The REAL Star Wars

By Richard A. Sedliacik

Audiences around the world flocked to see the *Star Wars* science fiction movies. These action-packed stories told of an evil emperor and his thwarted attempt to conquer an entire galaxy.

Believe it or not, a literal "star war" actually did take place, long before George Lucas' films or U.S. President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative. Rulership of the entire universe was at stake! The cataclysmic results of this titanic war can still be seen today.

Who was involved in this intergalactic battle? When did it occur? Why did it occur? What were the results? And what impact does it have on us today?

The startling answers are revealed in the Bible! So be sure to get your Bible, a pen or pencil and paper. Reading and writing out the Bible verses that answer the questions in this study will help you remember what you'll be learning.

1. Let's begin by going back into pre-history. Before the physical universe existed, there lived two all-powerful, divine spirit Beings. What does the Bible say about them? John 1:1-3, 14.

One of the Beings is God. And with God is another Being who *also* is God, referred to as the Word. He is the Spokesman of the two, the one who later became the human Jesus Christ. These supreme, all-powerful Beings have always existed, and always will (Psalm 90:2, I Timothy 1:17).

2. Who created the entire universe, including the earth? Genesis 1:1, John 1:3, Ephesians 3:9 (last part), Colossians 1:15-17. How was this accomplished? Psalms 33:6-9, 104:30.

The original Hebrew of Genesis 1:1, as we have shown before, reveals that God is a *Family*. The two Superbeings composing this divine Family together thought out, planned and designed the entire creation. Then the Word (Christ), through the awesome power of the Spirit of God, brought the entire universe into existence!

But, the earth, stars and galaxies were not the first things that were created.

3. What did God create even before the physical universe? Job 38:4-7. What are these "stars"? Revelation 1:20.

In Job 38:7, "morning stars" and "sons of God" refer to angels. Thus even before the physical universe was created, God created millions or perhaps even billions (see Revelation 5:11) of spirit beings known as angels. They are called the "sons of God" in the sense that each angel was created by God as a separate, immortal spirit being.



The battles portrayed in the *Star Wars* movies can't compare with the star war that really occurred!

4. Many types of angels were created, but the most powerful and beautiful was a super archangel named Lucifer. What does Ezekiel 28:12-14 tell us about him?

This cherub's name in Hebrew meant "Bringer of Light" — *Lucifer* in Latin. He was a spirit being of awesome, majestic beauty, dazzling brightness, great knowledge, wisdom and power.

5. Was Lucifer one of the anointed cherubs who covered God's throne in heaven? Ezekiel 28:14, Exodus 25:18-20.

The "mercy seat" described in Exodus 25 was symbolic of God's heavenly throne.

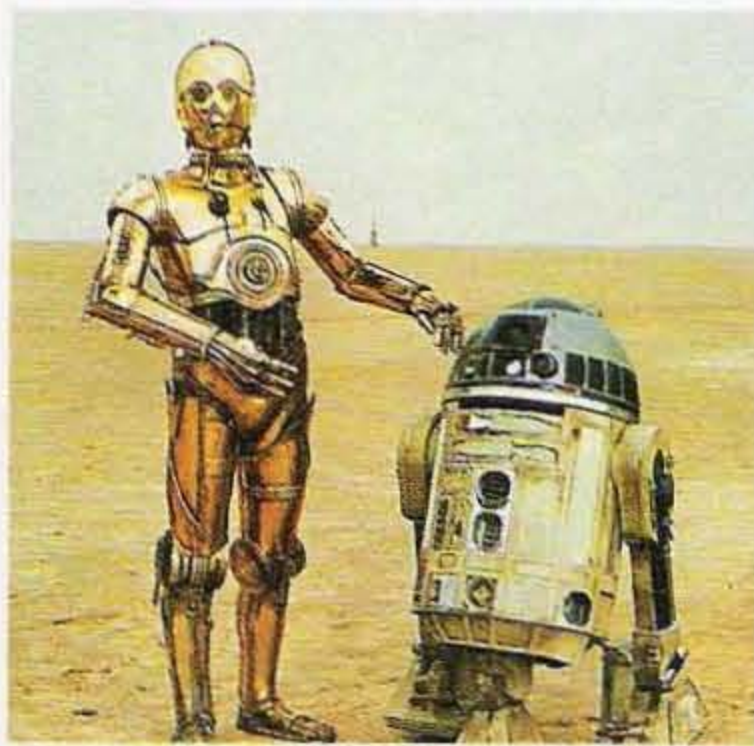
Lucifer was stationed at the very throne of God, where he was trained in the administration of God's government.

We don't know how long this training lasted, but in time he and a third of the angels were sent to earth by God to beautify and improve it — to make it even more beautiful than it already was. Lucifer was placed on a throne on earth and given the responsibility of directing this effort.

As long as Lucifer administered God's government on earth, there was peace, happiness and joy. That was because God's government is based on His law of love — the way of give, which is outgoing concern for the good and welfare of others.

6. But what eventually was found in Lucifer? Ezekiel 28:15. (Iniquity means lawlessness, wickedness, sin.) Did he become vain and corrupt? Verse 17.

Lucifer allowed his beauty and perfection to fill him with vanity. He became envious of God, resentful of God's authority over him. Thoughts of vanity, envy, lust and greed,



Star Wars. Those words bring to mind the fictional characters in George Lucas' blockbuster films. But truth is stranger than fiction — and the real star war was far more incredible. (Photos courtesy Lucasfilm Ltd.)

then resentment and rebellion caused his mind to become perverted. His thinking became totally warped.

7. Did Lucifer leave earth and ascend to heaven in an attempt to exalt his throne — which was in "Eden, the garden of God" (Ezekiel 28:13) — above all the angels ("stars") of God? Isaiah 14:12-14.

8. Did he convince other angels to follow him in his rebellion and thus *sin* against God? Jude 6, II Peter 2:4. How many of God's angels did Lucifer cause to turn traitor? Revelation 12:3-4.

9. Did Lucifer actually want to be like the most high God? See Isaiah 14:14 again.

Lucifer had nothing less in mind than knocking God off His throne and becoming supreme ruler himself! He was no longer satisfied with ruling over one planet. After swaying one third of God's angels to his side, Lucifer and his army swooped up to

heaven in an attempt to depose the Creator and Ruler of the universe!

10. But did their attempt to seize control succeed? Read Isaiah 14:12 again. (Also see Revelation 12:7-9, which describes another war in heaven to occur in our time.) How did Jesus describe Lucifer's fall from heaven? Luke 10:18.

Lucifer and the angels who followed him grossly underestimated God's incredible power and were cast back to earth. Jesus saw him fall from heaven like lightning!

Lucifer deliberately became his Maker's enemy, and so God changed his name to what he became — Satan, which means adversary, competitor, enemy. And the angels who were cast down with him became known as demons.

11. What happened to the earth as a result of Lucifer's rebellion? Genesis 1:2.

A better translation is: "The earth *became* waste and empty [chaotic, in confusion and in a state of decay]." God's beautiful earth suffered terrible devastation because of Lucifer's rebellion.

Not only did this titanic "star war" wreak havoc on earth, it also brought destruction to other planets. It caused the decay and barren landscapes seen in photographs of our moon, Mercury and Mars.

12. Sometime after this destruction, did God renew the earth and create plant, animal and human life? See Psalm 104:30 again. Also summarize Genesis 1:2-31.

13. Was Satan (the serpent — Revelation 12:9) in the Garden of Eden, trying to influence Adam and Eve to disobey God? Genesis 3:1-6. Was this because God has allowed him to continue as the invisible ruler of this world? II Corinthians 4:4. When will Satan's rule end? Revelation 20:1-3.

Satan is responsible for deceiving humanity and influencing people to sin (Revelation 12:9, Ephesians 2:2). That is why this world has had suffering, war and death for nearly 6,000 years since Adam.

The Bible reveals that Jesus Christ came to earth nearly 2,000 years ago and qualified to replace Satan as ruler of the world. He will soon return and banish Satan and his demons so they will no longer be able to influence humanity. Peace, happiness and joy will return to earth when God's government is restored by Christ!

(For a more detailed account of the events discussed in this study, request Editor-in-Chief Herbert W. Armstrong's book, *Mystery of the Ages*. It is available in paperback, absolutely free.) □

Dear Youth 86,

Practical Bible-based answers to the problems of growing up.

Q. My problem is that I need money, but at age 13, there isn't much I can do to earn it. Also, my parents won't give me any.

A. Of course, your basic needs like food and shelter are probably already cared for by your parents. Still, it is nice to have some pocket money for special, not-too-costly items of our own.

Although you have said your parents won't give you any money, that doesn't mean they won't help you find ways to earn some if you ask for their aid. We suggest you discuss this with your folks in a positive way.

Why not make your problem their problem by taking them into your confidence? Explain to them your needs and wants and ask them to help you solve this problem of "ours." If you remember that your parents want to help, and concentrate on explaining the problem (not their faults) in a convincing way, they may rally to help you out of their natural desire to do good things for their kids.

Also, why not look back at the article "Need Some Extra Cash?" in the June-July *Youth 85*? It may give you some useful moneymaking ideas.

If none of this works, you may have to wait awhile before you have much pocket money. But we can still be grateful for the many wonderful things that we do have.

Q. I have a question about the Bible. I know the Bible says it is OK to drink alcoholic beverages. If so, why won't my parents let me drink beer?

A. It is indeed true that the Bible permits the use of alcoholic beverages (John 2:1-11, I Timothy 5:23). But it absolutely forbids drunkenness, and therefore allows their use only in

strict moderation. Further, although it allows drinking, it does not command anyone to drink.

And there are other considerations. God gives parents the right to monitor what their kids do, including the right to forbid them to drink while they are young. Further, God gives this society the right to make certain laws, including the laws that forbid people under a certain age to drink.

Quite frankly, most of the rules against drinking that governments and parents make are good because they're meant to protect young people from something that can be easily abused. Much heartache and suffering are caused each year through the abuse of alcohol.

Therefore we suggest you follow your parents' wishes, and, of course, obey the laws of the land. Although probably some people shouldn't drink at all, the time will come when you can make that decision for yourself. When that time comes, you may find yourself agreeing with the rules you now question.

Q. Although I try very hard, I don't seem to do very well in school. My big problem is my mathematics teacher who for no reason doesn't like me and makes it tough for me in her class. How can I get this teacher

to stop being cranky with me?

A. We can understand why this situation bothers you. To change the situation, though, you'll have to try to look at it from the teacher's side, because we can't make the teacher look at it from yours.

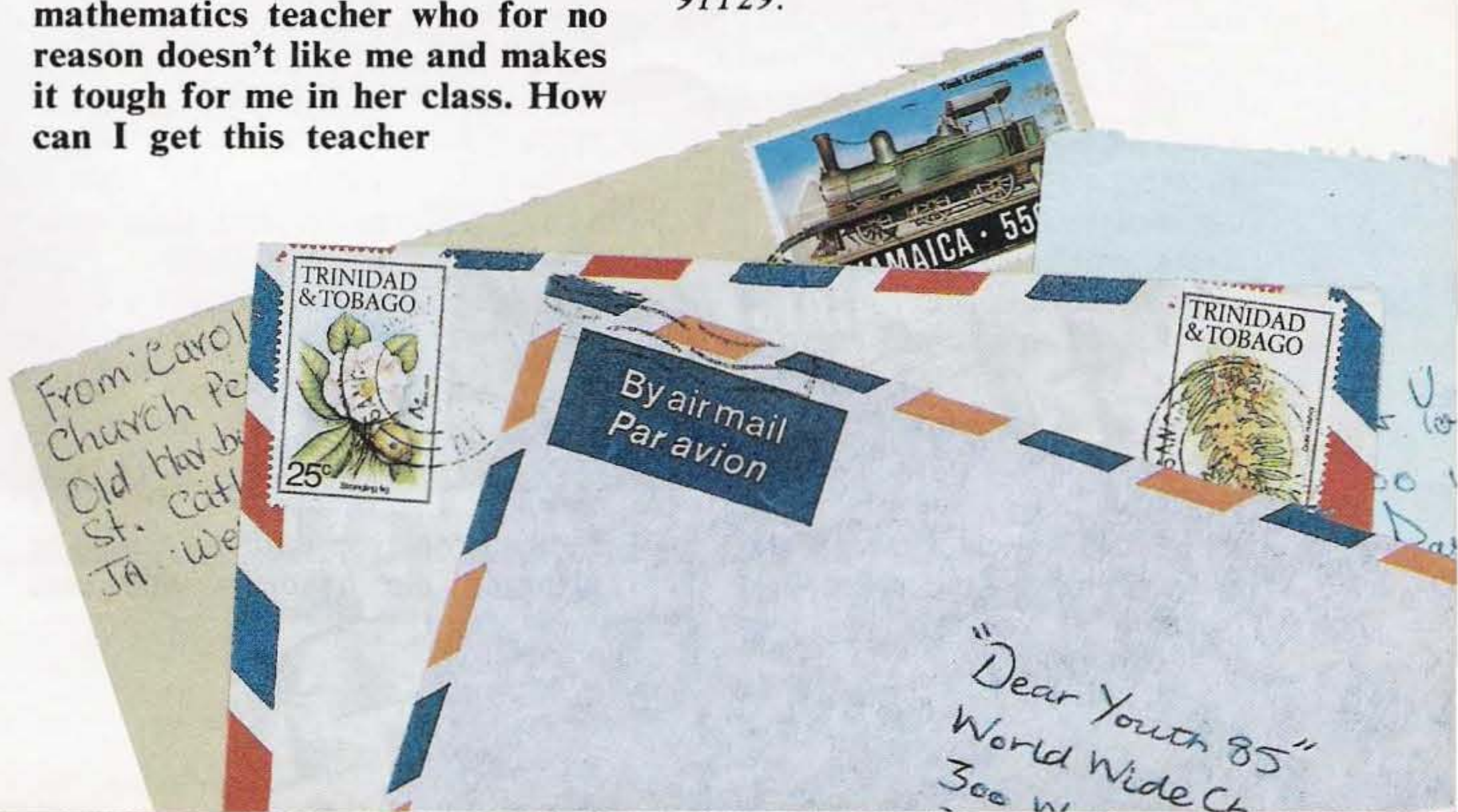
What if your teacher dislikes something you have done or are doing? We suggest that you make a strong attempt (even if it seems one-sided at first) to be polite and supportive. Give this approach time to work. If you have offended her in some way, it may take a while to get back in her good graces.

If after a while you still find her to be hostile — in spite of your best efforts to get along — then maybe you could ask your parents to set up a conference with her to determine what the problem is.

Perhaps in some cases you may wish to discuss the problem with the teacher yourself. This can require a great deal of tact, and it would be good to get your parents' advice before you do.

For more about how to get along with teachers, look at the article "It's My Teacher's Fault!" on page 19 of the October-November issue. □

We welcome your questions and will excerpt as many as possible. Sorry we can't answer them all. Answers are prepared by Bernard W. Schnippert, a minister of the Worldwide Church of God. Address your questions to "Dear Youth 86," 300 W. Green Street, Pasadena, California, 91129.



Teen in ITALY?

(Continued from page 15)

level, and tells him or her where improvement is needed.

Most exams are given orally. At any time on any day, a student may be required to stand in front of the class to answer the teacher's questions. Therefore, he or she must be ready at all times.

Family comes first

Between 2 and 4 p.m., Italian streets are quiet, almost deserted. All shops and stores, and most businesses, close at 1 or 2 p.m. The people go home for lunch and have a two- or three-hour break before returning to work.

Why do Italians do this? Because of tradition and the strong sense of importance Italians place on their families. During this period, entire families have lunch together. It is extremely important for all family members to be present.

Italians have a highly developed sense of personal responsibility, especially to their families. It has been said that, for Italians, family life is sacred. The father is indisputably the head of the household. He protects and enforces the reputation and good name of the family.

In the past few centuries the political and economic conditions of Italy have often been unstable. Fortunately, the Italians' deep sense of family unity and allegiance has held the country together. Family businesses are the backbone of the country.

In time of trouble, such as a flood or an earthquake, the Italian unity extends well beyond the family. Individual Italians all over the country have been known to stop what they are doing and rush to the aid of their countrymen.

Yes, there is much more to life in this boot-shaped land than many people think. From the canals of Venice, to the ancient monuments of Rome, to the vineyards of Sicily, there is an excitement and appeal that gives Italy a flavor all its own. □

SPIDER'S Story

(Continued from page 16)

step on, swat at or otherwise dispose of an unfortunate spider, the spider's greatest single enemy is the weather. Floods, dry spells or unusually long and cold winters substantially reduce the ranks of the spider world.

Making silk

The production of silk is perhaps the most important of the spider's abilities. The orb web is probably the most familiar object associated with a spider. You've probably been intrigued in watching a spider spinning its web across a vast expanse of space. Maybe you've seen the beautiful artwork of the spider glistening with dew drops in the early morning sun.

The web works as a 24-hour-a-day food service, snagging both day and night flying insects. Its silk is strong and elastic, yet almost invisible. It's amazing how this tiny little creature can create such a complex, yet delicately perfect, creation!

The spider is equipped with spinnerets, which are at the rear of its abdomen. The silk glands squeeze the silk out of the spinnerets, like toothpaste being squeezed out of a tube.

Some of the silk is produced in the form of a liquid, then hardens as it leaves the spider. Most silk strands appear to be one single thread, but actually the strand may consist of individual threads lying alongside one another.

The finest single strands of silk are about 0.00003-mm. (1/1,000,000 of an inch) in diameter, yet some types of silk strands are stronger than a steel thread of the same diameter. The silk is strong and elastic, and almost invisible. You may know how sticky and hard it is to get untangled from a spider's web if you ever run into one.

The spider's web is its major means of capturing food, although a few species do their hunting on tree trunks or on the ground. The spider's web also

protects the eggs from predators.

Building the web

With a few slight variations, spiders follow a set order of building instructions to build their particular type of web. The spiders that build the beautiful and complicated orb web first spin the topmost bridging line, from which the web will be suspended.

The spider lets go a silk thread from its spinnerets across the space where it wants the web. The floating thread is carried by air currents and when it catches on an object, the spider tightens the slack and anchors it on its end. In some tropical species, this bridging line may be several meters long and, in some cases, span small rivers.

From this first line, the spider begins to add lines like the spokes of a wheel, all made with dry silk and seldom exceeding 50 in number. Next the spider returns to the center of the wheel and begins spinning framework spirals working from the inside out. The spider then works inward toward the center of the web, filling the framework with more spirals. These final spirals are composed of a stickier substance that will ensnare its food. The nonsticky "scaffolding" is then removed and eaten by the spider.

The spider is equipped with special hairs on its legs to help it grasp the thread while spinning the web. A special oily substance on its legs keeps it from becoming entangled in the sticky threads. After the web is constructed, some spiders return to the center of the web and wait for their meal, which will replenish the protein and energy used spinning the web.

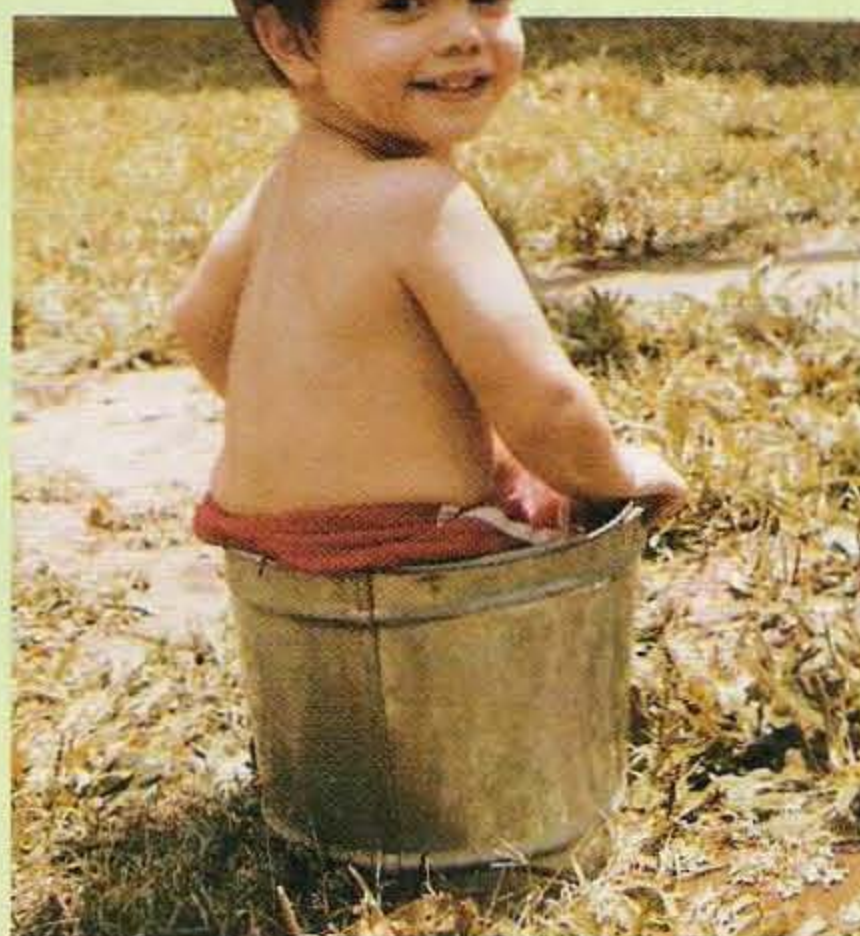
The entire building process normally takes less than an hour, with many spiders constructing a new web every night.

The next time you see a spider spinning its web, go ahead and stop a minute to watch this amazing building project. You'll have a front-row seat for one of the most fascinating productions in God's creation! □

Don't Be a Buffoon!

Fillaballoon

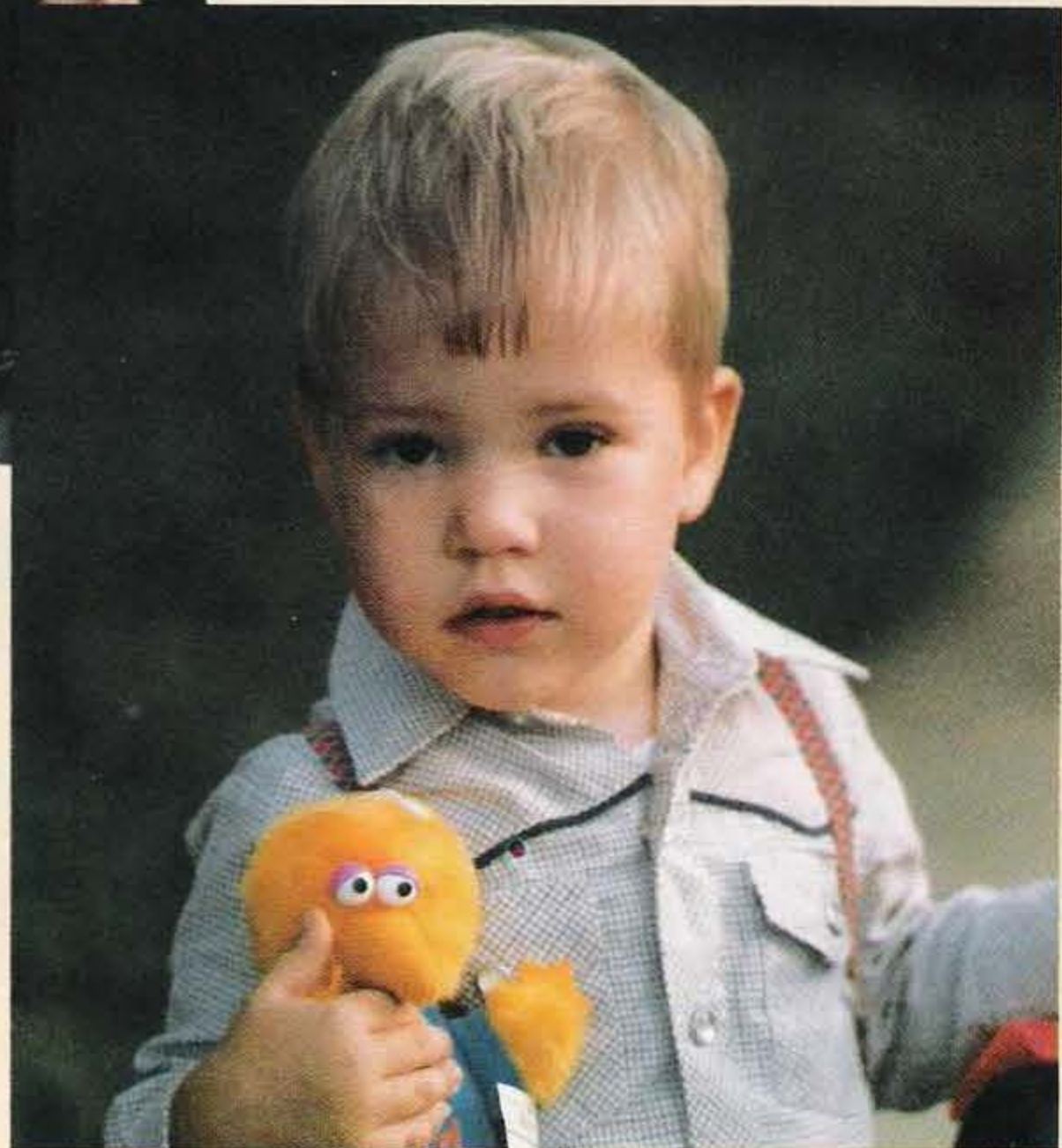
To Complete These Cartoons Soon!



Some pictures just seem to need a cartoon balloon or caption to really tell their humorous tale! That's where you come in. Write down your wild and wacky captions for these three photos, and send them to: "Humor Contest," Youth 86, 300 W. Green St., Pasadena, California, 91129. We'll print some of your craziest captions in a future issue. Deadline: April 1.



Youngsters always seem to make interesting subjects. Samantha Elledge, 18, from Anchorage, Alaska, took the photos above and left on a trip to China. The photo below is by Connie Kramer from Mandeville, Louisiana.



YOUTH ON CAMERA



Rolling!

(Continued from page 10)

ners. Losers from table No. 1 move to the bottom table, changing partners. Losers from all other tables stay where they are, except that they change partners. Winning, obviously, offers more chances for travel.

Play continues: When the bell at the head table is rung again, play begins again. This time the object is to get 2s.

Bunco: If, during the game, a player rolls all three dice so that they each show the number needed during that round (three 1s, three 2s and so on), the player calls out "Bunco!" A bunco is automatically worth 21 points. The player who rolled the bunco is given a special token to hold. (Can you see now why this object should be something funny — a crazy hat, a banana or your little sister's biggest doll, for example?) This token will change hands each time another player achieves a bunco. At the end of the game, the player holding the token receives a prize.

Note: A player who rolls a bunco is responsible, after his turn, for obtaining the token from the person who has it.

Time limit: About 90 minutes is good, with a refreshment break at the 45-minute mark. (Besides, 90 minutes is probably all the neighbors will be able to put up with!) At the end of that time, the punches in each person's card are added up and overall winners determined.

Prizes: Hosts usually provide small prizes (plants, note cards, cheesecakes, gold bullion) for the following categories: highest score, second highest score, lowest score and for holding the token.

Why not try an evening of bunco next time you and your friends want to get together? It's fun to invite parents and their friends to play, too. Younger brothers and sisters can also enjoy the game. Bunco is a great way to really get a party rolling! □

READER BY-LINE

'Now I Understand'

By Minette Burks

As I sat down at my desk and picked up my pen, my mind drifted back to the two previous school years. I thought about all the time my schoolmates and I had spent talking about our math and science instructor.

Oh, how we hated that man! He just didn't understand kids. He was so hard on us all — as if he expected us to be perfect! The drilling, the lecturing, the many unannounced tests, the constant studying and too much homework. We just barely had time for our other classes!

And now here I sat, writing a thank-you letter to the very teacher we had all disliked so much.

You see, in my first few months of high school I noticed that many of my classmates were struggling through math and science while, to me, it was almost all a review. I had learned it from the teacher who had been so ridiculed by the students in my junior high school.

Although our teacher had been really rough on us, he had only been doing his job — teaching us. And he'd been doing very well at that! We weren't learning any more from him than from our other teachers, but by practically pounding the information into our brains, he made certain that we wouldn't forget it!

So, in my letter, I began to thank him for everything he had taught me. I told him how well I was doing in my math and science classes and that I finally

understood why he had insisted on nothing but the best.

A short time later, that teacher died from cancer of the liver — a disease he'd had for a long time, although none of us had known it. I knew that he had gone into the hospital at least twice during the time I was in his classes, but I hadn't known why. I found out that he had kept teaching right up to a few short weeks before he died. He died without ever receiving my letter.

I felt so guilty for the rotten way we had treated him. In return he had continued to teach us everything he could — even when he knew that he was dying!

All that first year of high school, I tried to understand everything from the teachers' point of view. Even though we may think that we are not learning anything or that a particular teacher is not fair, he or she must be doing *something* right. If we all looked on the bright side, it would make things a lot easier for students *and* teachers.

I'm sure that my teacher knew that we would all be thankful for him someday, in one way or another, but wouldn't it have been nice if I had told him? □

Editor's note: The author, age 15, is from Shreveport, Louisiana. If you would like to submit an article for this section, send it to: "Reader By-Line," Youth 86, 300 W. Green St., Pasadena, California, 91129.

'Let's Talk About It'

By Dexter H. Faulkner

Every day we receive letters from some of you about problems you face. We try to encourage you and always we suggest that you have a heart-to-heart talk with your parents about your problems.

Many times the response

to approach them. The very thought makes many of you nervous.

Why is there friction between teenagers and their parents? What can teens do about it?

When conflict arises, remember what Jesus Christ said: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of

know that we love them always, no matter what.

One way to express that love is to show our appreciation of our parents more and gripe and complain less.

For example, say, "Thanks for the ride, Dad," or "That was a delicious meal, Mom!"

Make a bigger effort to have fun with your family. Showing you want to be with your family shows love for them. Perhaps you can suggest a family picnic. Fun family outings will always be remembered and can help smooth over rough spots.

Also remember, if you don't keep your word, you're telling your parents you can't be trusted. Gaining your parents' trust is an important step in keeping peace in the family and preventing future problems.

One vital skill in preventing and solving conflicts is brainstorming for solutions. Why not think of at least three possible solutions to prevent that problem you see developing?

In spite of our efforts to be peacemakers, conflicts will sometimes develop. Here are some guidelines that will help resolve those problems.

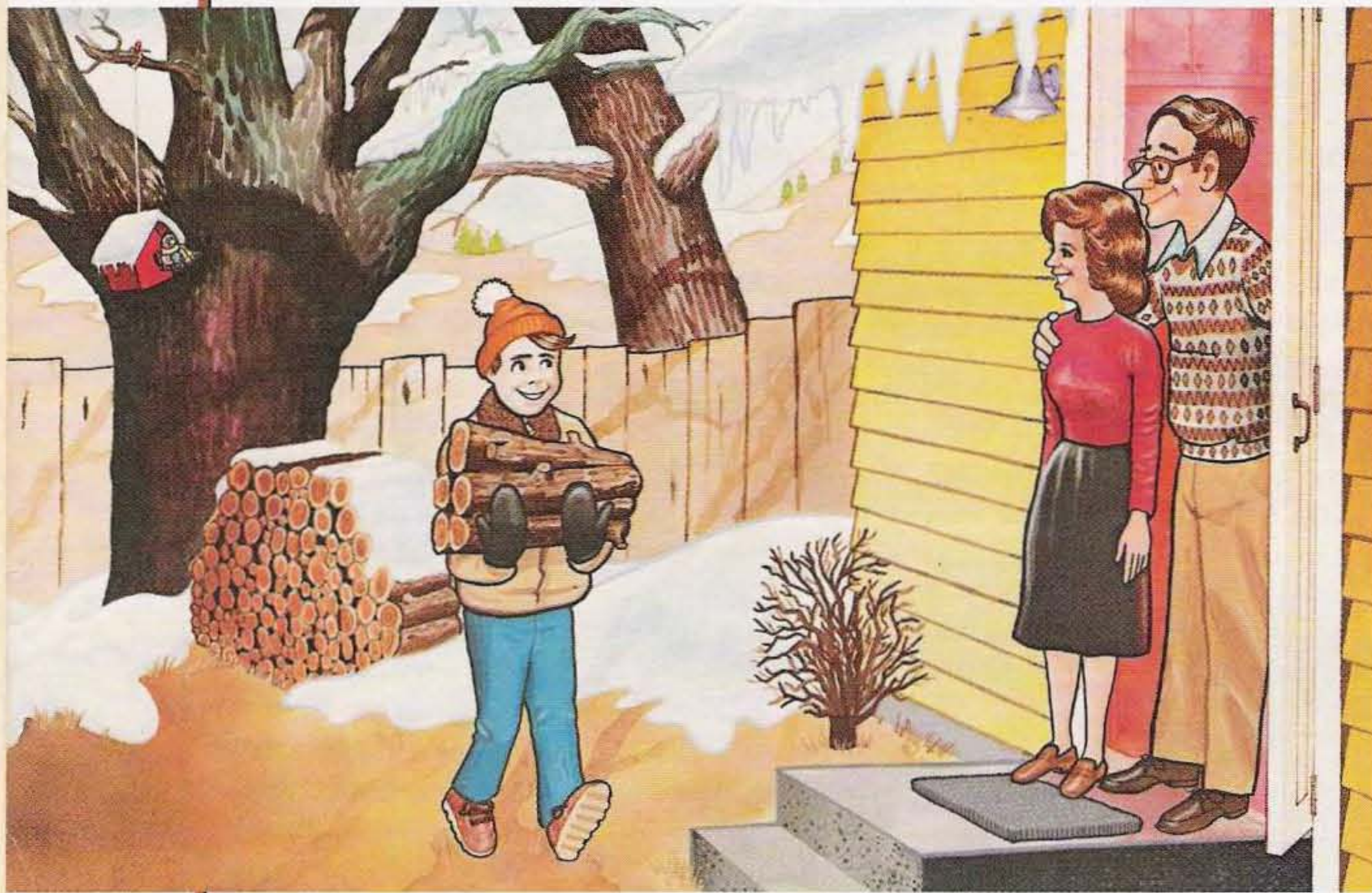
- *Stick to the subject.* It's easy, when discussing an emotionally charged issue, to start bringing up your parents' bad habits or something unfair they did to you six years ago. This doesn't help solve the problem — it often makes it worse.

- *Be honest, but tactful.* Our manner, tone of voice and facial expressions say a lot. Be honest about your feelings, but don't be rude or sarcastic.

- *Listen, really listen.* Try seeing it from your parents' viewpoint.

- *Don't assume anything.* Make sure you understand each

(Continued on page 29)



Positive actions can speak louder than words. Make peace by doing something nice for your parents.

is, "No way!" Why? Many of you react that way because you don't think your parents would really listen and, besides, you wouldn't know how

God" (Matthew 5:9). Making and keeping peace with our parents is well worth the effort that it takes!

Let's talk about how we can be peacemakers. The foundation of our efforts to be at peace with our parents must be love. We need to make sure they

BY THE WAY...

(Continued from page 28)

other. If there's any doubt, ask them to explain it again.

• *Apply Matthew 7:12.* "Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets." We should speak to our parents in the way we like to be spoken to.

Sometimes communication can be painful and stressful, but it doesn't have to be. If we try to open the lines of communication and make them strong, problems will be solved much more easily. Talking things over won't be something to dread, but something to look forward to.

An old French proverb goes something like this: "Hear, see and communicate if you would live in peace." Where there is peace in the family, blessings always follow.

By the way, if any parents are reading this: I originally wrote a version of this for adults. These points apply both ways. Remember, peace and harmony come when *both* sides work at it! □

Growing Old?

(Continued from page 6)

and find enjoyment with a piece of paper and a pencil, while many adults think they need new cars, a ski boat and a motor home or they will just die with envy.

Of course, sometimes having a job while you are a teen can be a good thing. But how sad it is that some teens get a job they don't need — often neglecting their studies and social life because of it — simply because they have been bitten by one well-known disease of old age called "keeping up with the Joneses."

And here is another thing it is vitally important that you avoid: Don't think the vices that adults have reserved for themselves are what make a person mature.

Gambling, smoking, drinking to excess and watching movies you are supposed to be a certain

age to see — these things don't make you adult or happy or mature. If you get involved in them, they *will* change you, for the worse. Your mind will become tainted — you'll be growing old before your time.

Finally, please don't ever lose your sense of humor. Look at a child's playground. It is alive with zestful laughter and merry-making. Yet, somewhere along the path of life, far too many adults have lost their ability to see the lighter side of life. You don't have to be one of those who slip from the bright and sometimes funny times of youth to a straitjacket of forced somberness.

A precious thing

Yes, your youth is a precious thing, with many good qualities worth clinging to fiercely. That is one reason so many adults would give almost anything to recapture their younger days.

And that is one reason even Jesus Christ commended the many good qualities of youth by telling adults that "unless you . . . become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:3). He meant that we must all recapture the beautiful virtues of youth, like teachability and purity, while, of course, maturing in knowledge, character and wisdom.

What happens to those who grow up too fast? What about those who end up in prison for years? My guess is that when they get out they will try desperately to regain some of the time that was lost to a jail cell. They will look earnestly for ways to turn the clock around.

They will try, but they will fail. You can never go back. You can't regain your youth once you've lost it.

You don't have to face this situation, though. You still have your youth — remember to guard it and it will serve you well. Remember the lesson from the sign on my grandfather's wall:

"We grow too soon old, and too late smart." □

Letters

(Continued from inside front cover)

rather I would like to comment on your response to the question of it being wrong to hunt purely for the fun of it in last month's issue (October-November, 1985).

I realize you were not about to make a strong one-sided argument on the subject, but I, personally, do feel that hunting purely for the enjoyment or "fun" is wrong. Why must man need to prove his superiority over nature? Why must he kill (often illegally and hunting endangered species) innocent animals to show his masculinity? God has told us we are above all other living things, why then do men have to prove themselves further?

I feel, however, your response was a good one, and I know that you had to be careful discussing such a "touchy" subject. I wrote you to express my feelings on the subject.

I would also like, at this time, to say your magazine is "very good." I read it from cover to cover and enjoy it tremendously, reading every article. I hope you continue with much success to reach teens of all ages with the message of God.

Dianne Phillips
Sydney, Nova Scotia

Someone to talk to

Thank you so much for the article "I Just Need Someone to Talk to" in the September edition of *Youth* 85. It helped me to realize that being friendly can have a positive effect on someone else and at the same time help me as well.

I know how valuable a friendship can be especially when you need support and someone who understands. I have recently moved. . . .

I can look forward to meeting new friends and no matter where I go, I know I will always have one friend that never fails me. God is truly one friend you can count on.

Sandra Lewandowski
Dallas, Texas

Comment from Cayman Island

Congratulations on the wonderful articles that are featured in the *Youth* 85.

I have learned a lot from your articles, and I am applying all that I have learned to my daily life.

Thank you for the *Youth* 85, and keep up the good work.

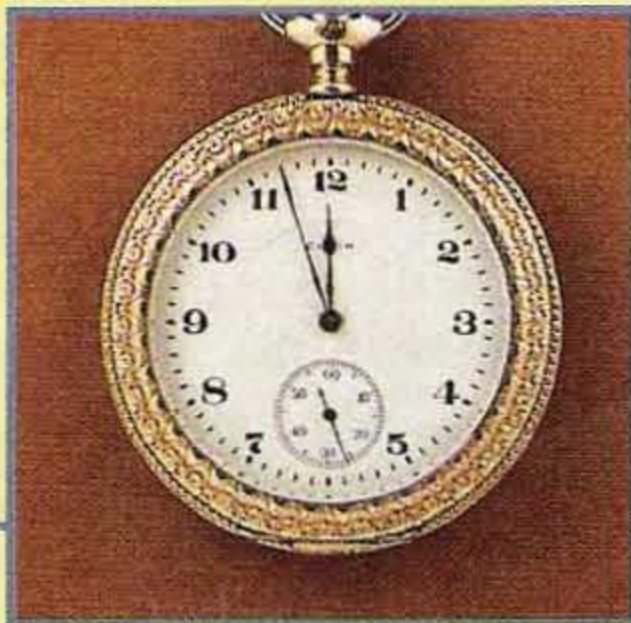
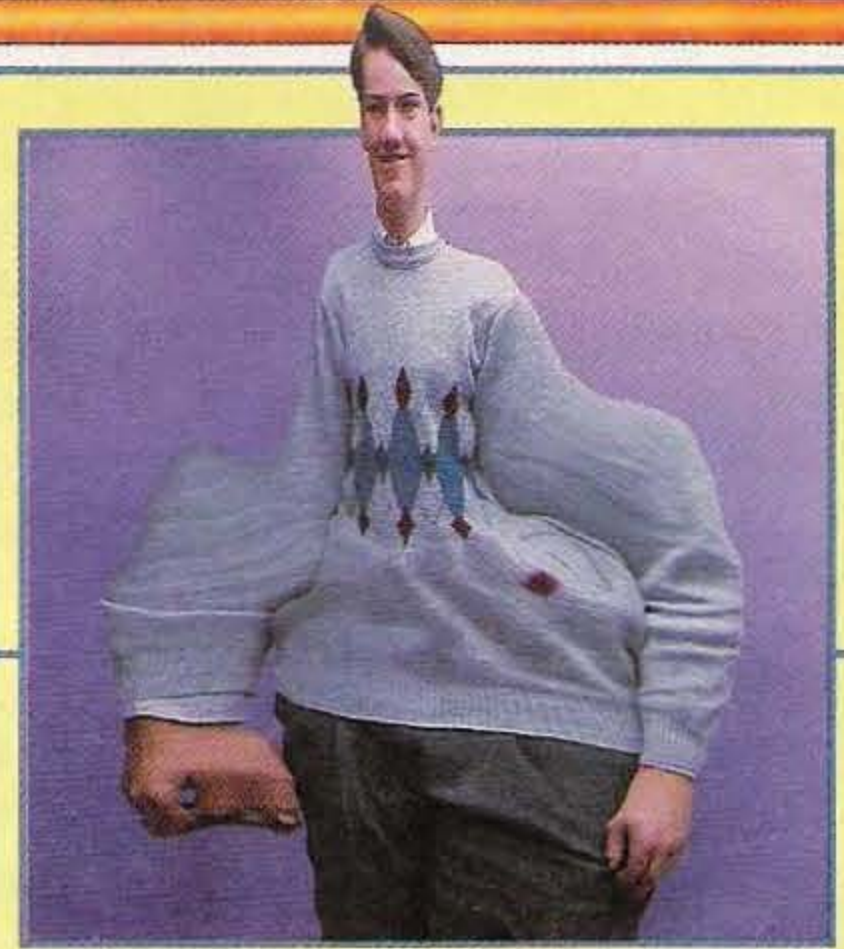
Sharon Jones
George Town, Cayman Island

Coming Attractions

...IN FUTURE ISSUES

"I Don't Like the Way I Look!"

Are you at war with your shape?
What changes can you make?



What Are You Putting Off?

Can't seem to get caught up? Here are some positive ways to get things done.

People or Yourself?

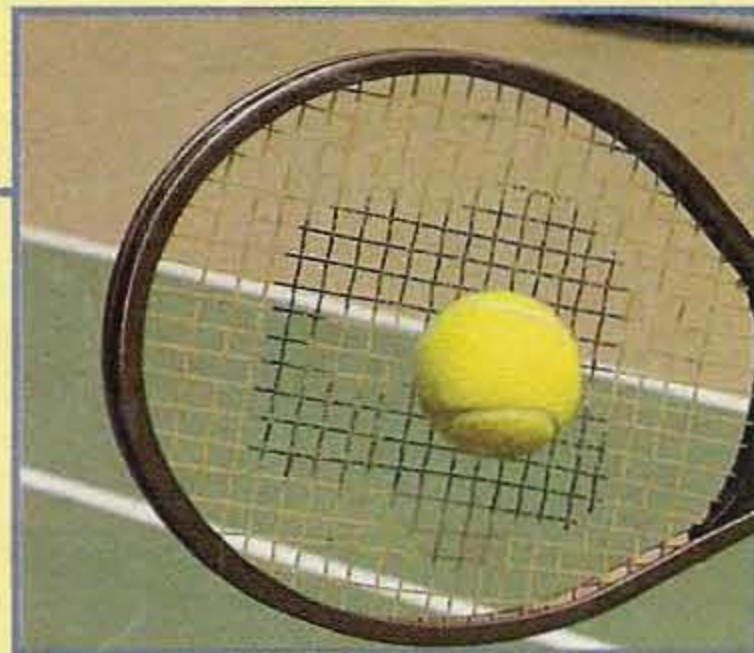
Is your own favorite subject yourself?
If it isn't,
it ought to be!

"What Do You Think?"

Two heads are better than one.

"Why Am I Here?"

The awesome reason you are alive!



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